# CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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Central banks trim dollar exposure, boost gold bets P9

P12 Kajal Aggarwal Reportedly Replaces Nayanthara In NBK111 Film

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# Insurance sector open for 100% FDI

LIC cap stays 20%, tighter rules apply for investors linked to China, Hong Kong under automatic route

**NEW DELHI**

The Centre on Saturday notified 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in insurance companies under the automatic route, permitting wider participation from overseas investors.

"Foreign investment in this sector shall be subject to compliance with the provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938(4 of 1938), and the condition that Companies receiving FDI shall obtain necessary licence or approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India for undertaking insurance and related activities," reads the notification.

However, the framework for Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will be separate, with foreign investment capped at 20 per cent under the automatic route.

"Foreign investment in LIC shall be subject to compliance with the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 (31 of 1956), and such other provisions of the Insurance Act, 1938 (4 of 1938), as are applicable to LIC as per the provisions of section 43 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 (31 of 1956)."

Further, the rules mandate that at least one of the chairperson of the board, managing director, or chief executive officer must be an Indian resident citizen in an Indian insurance company with foreign investment.

Insurance intermediaries including insurance brokers, reinsurance brokers, insurance consultants, corporate agents, third party administrator, Surveyors and Loss Assessors, managing general agents, insurance repositories and such other entities have also been permitted 100 per cent foreign investment under the automatic route.

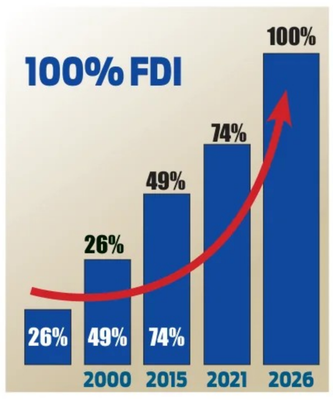
This comes after the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Commerce and Industry Ministry had already notified 100% FDI in the insurance sector in February.

In December 2025, Parliament passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025, which brought key changes to the insurance framework.

## Evolution of FDI limits in insurance sector

India's insurance sector has witnessed a progressive relaxation of FDI norms over the past two decades:

- **2000:** FDI up to 26% was permitted, marking the initial opening up of the sector to foreign investments.
- **2015:** The FDI cap was increased to 49%, aiming to attract more foreign capital and expertise.
- **2021:** The limit was further increased to 74%, providing foreign investors with greater control and encouraging deeper engagement.
- **2026:** The latest policy change allows for 100% Foreign Direct Investment, enabling full ownership by foreign entities, provided that all policyholder premiums are invested within India.




## What it means for the sector?

**The move is expected to:**

- Attract global insurers and long-term capital
- Increase competition and product innovation
- Improve insurance penetration, especially in underserved segments
- Strengthen the financial resilience of insurers
- At the same time, retaining a cap on LIC ensures the government continues to exercise control over a systemically important institution.

### Reforms follow amendment to insurance laws

In December 2025, Parliament passed the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Bill, 2025, which brought key changes to the insurance framework. The legislation amended three major laws governing the sector — the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956, and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

### What has changed in FDI rules?

The Centre, through a notification aligned with Press Note 1 (2026 Series), has permitted 100% FDI in insurance companies without prior government approval.

This effectively removes the earlier cap and allows global insurers to fully own Indian insurance ventures, easing entry barriers and enabling faster expansion of the sector.

### Why LIC remains under a separate cap?

Despite broader liberalisation, LIC will continue to operate under a distinct framework with a cap of 20% under the automatic route, in line with provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. The decision reflects the government's intent to retain strategic control over the country's largest insurer, which plays a critical role in financial stability and public savings.

### Governance conditions for foreign-owned insurers

The new rules introduce a key safeguard: any insurance company with foreign investment must have at least one resident Indian citizen among its top leadership — chairperson, managing director or chief executive officer. Additionally, investments must comply with pricing and regulatory norms under FEMA and IRDAI guidelines.

### Intermediaries also get 100% FDI

The reform extends beyond insurers to intermediaries. Entities such as brokers, reinsurance brokers, consultants, corporate agents, third-party administrators, surveyors and insurance repositories can now receive 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route. However, entities like banks acting as intermediaries will continue to follow sector-specific caps if insurance is not their primary business.

# Dry spell: CM asks babus to ensure unbroken drinking water supply

**BENGALURU**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said there is a possibility of a five per cent decrease in rainfall this year and asked officials to ensure that drinking water supply is not affected.

The CM gave these instructions at a meeting of additional chief secretaries, principal secretaries, and secretaries of all departments held at Vidhana Soudha.

"As there is a possibility of a five per cent decrease in rainfall this year, district in-charge secretaries should constantly monitor the drinking water situation in their districts.

Meetings should be held with deputy commissioners and zilla panchayat chief executive officers in this regard," the CM said.

"It is the responsibility of the respective secretaries to resolve the problems of the districts under their jurisdiction. Drinking water supply should not be affected for any reason," the Chief Minister said.

Siddaramaiah said the role of departmental secretaries is crucial for the proper functioning of the state administration, as recognised in the Constitution.

"It is the duty of all secretaries to act in accordance with the Constitution. They should not do anything against it," he said.

> As there is a possibility of a five per cent decrease in rainfall this year, district in-charge secretaries should constantly monitor the drinking water situation in their districts.
> -Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

### 'Onus on officials to enact budget proposals'

The government made a total of 565 announcements in this year's budget, including 218 new ones. It is the responsibility of officials to implement all announcements within the same year. They should not remain unimplemented for any reason. Bring any practical difficulties in implementation directly to my notice or that of the chief secretary."

Out of the announcements in the 2026-27 budget, government orders have been issued for only five, he said. "All government orders should be implemented, and execution should begin by May; otherwise, the respective secretaries will be held responsible." He said delays in addressing public grievances could erode people's trust in the government.

## Prefers not to strike Iran even as frustration mounts: Trump

**WASHINGTON:** US President Donald Trump expressed frustration with Iranian negotiations but stopped short of threatening to end the brittle ceasefire between the countries and order fresh airstrikes."They want to make a deal but I'm not satisfied with it," Trump said. "We just had a conversation with Iran. Let's see what happens. But I would say that I am not happy."Asked about the administration's options, he said that "on a human basis, I prefer not" to restart hostilities in a war that erupted with US and Israeli strikes on Iran in late February. Thousands of people have been killed across the Middle East, mostly in Iran and Lebanon, and energy prices have soared because of the blockage of the vital Strait of Hormuz.

## Re-poll: WB logs 86.90% turnout

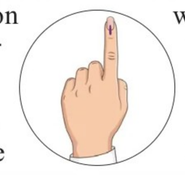
**KOLKATA**

Repolling at 15 booths across two Assembly constituencies in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district concluded at 6 pm on Saturday, with voter turnout reaching 87%, according to an EC official.

Voting began at 7 am and continued till 6 pm. Polling was more or less peaceful at 11 polling booths of Magrahat Paschim assembly constituency and four in Diamond Harbour. The Election Commission had ordered a repoll on Friday, following reports of electoral malpractices. Voting in these two assembly constituencies was held in the second phase of the state elections on April 29.

"So far, polling has been peaceful with none of the two assembly constituencies reporting any incident of violence or unrest," the EC official said.

Voting in these two assembly constituencies was held in the second phase of the state elections on April 29. The EC had said that the repoll order was based on reports received from returning officers and observers of the two constituencies and "material circumstances".



## EC can choose counting personnel: SC rejects TMC's plea

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on Saturday declined to entertain a plea by West Bengal's ruling party, All India Trinamool Congress against the Election Commission's circular to appoint central government staff as supervisor and assistant during the counting of votes of Assembly polls scheduled on May 4, 2026. The apex court disposed of the plea, which challenged the Calcutta High Court's April 30, 2026 decision, saying no further orders were necessary. A special bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi observed that the Election Commission was within its rights to choose counting personnel and that its April 13 circular could not be faulted. The court said that TMC should give the government employees some credence.

# Hotels assn demands GST cut on commercial LPG cylinders to 5%

**BENGALURU**

In the wake of the price of commercial LPG being hiked, Karnataka State Hotels Association (KSHA) on Saturday urged the government to immediately reduce the GST on 19 kg commercial LPG cylinders from 18% to 5%.

With the West Asia conflict still raging on, commercial 19-kg LPG cylinder prices were hiked by a record Rs 993 on Friday. KSHA president GK Shetty, in a statement, said the hike of Rs 1,308 in 60 days announced by the government (via oil marketing companies) is the sharpest increase in recent times.

Prices have risen from the roughly Rs 1,800 - Rs 2,000 range in March to Rs 3,100 plus now, he said, with the total increase ranging from 50 per cent to 70 per cent within 60 days, depending on the base city and timing. "If immediate corrective measures are not taken, businesses will have no option but to pass on the increased costs to consumers, making eating out more expensive and affecting overall demand," he said.

Highlighting that the hotel and restaurant industry was facing an unprecedented crisis triggered by global disruptions, Shetty said, the shortage of commercial LPG, coupled with steep price increases, has significantly escalated operational costs for hotels and eateries across the state.

# Life term: Assembly disqualifies Cong MLA Vinay Kulkarni

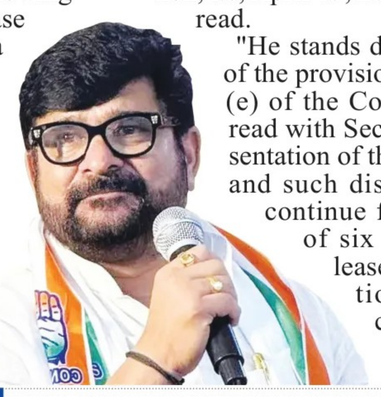
**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Saturday issued an official notification regarding the disqualification of Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni following his conviction in the murder case of BJP leader Yogeshgouda Goudar.

The former minister is currently in prison, serving life imprisonment in the case.

"Consequent upon the conviction of Vinay Kulkarni, Member of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly representing the Dharwad constituency, by the LXXXI Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru City (CCH-82), in Spl CC No. 565/2021, he stands disqualified from the membership of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly from the date of conviction, i.e, April 15, 2026," the notification read.

"He stands disqualified in terms of the provisions of Article 191(1)(e) of the Constitution of India, read with Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and such disqualification shall continue for a further period of six years after his release, unless the conviction is stayed by a competent court," it added.



**NOT TO BE MISSED!**

# 'Extremely Severe Alert' buzzes phones nationwide

**NEW DELHI**

Mobile phones across India lit up with a loud alert tone on Saturday as the Centre conducted a nationwide test of its new disaster warning system, reassuring citizens that the message was only a drill.

The alert, marked "Extremely Severe Alert," was part of the official rollout of an indigenous Cell Broadcast-based emergency communication system designed to instantly notify people during disasters. Authorities clarified that no action was required from the public.

The system was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. Developed by Centre for Development of Telematics, the platform—named SACHET—operates on globally accepted alerting standards and is now active across all states and Union Territories.

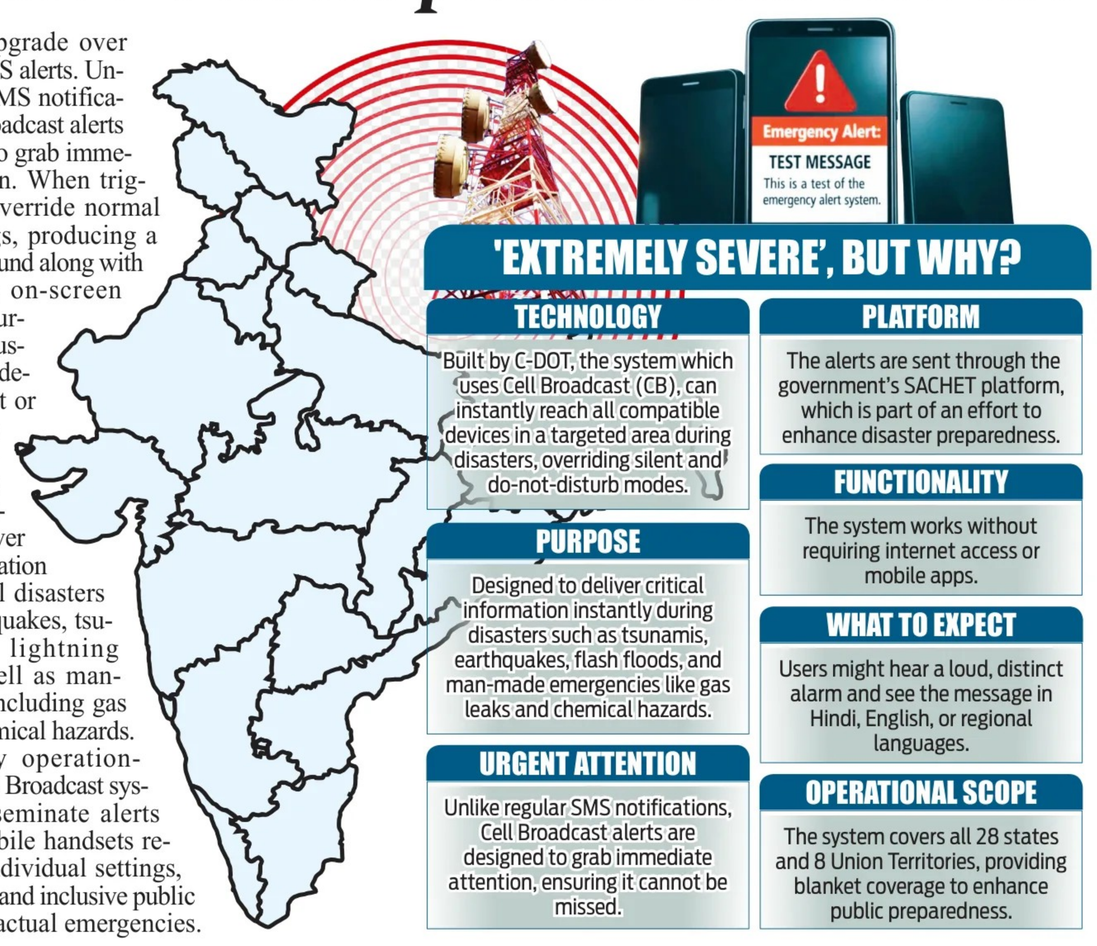
Designed to deliver critical information instantly during disasters or public safety emergencies, the system works without requiring internet access or mobile apps.

According to a government statement, at the core of the initiative is SACHET, an integrated alert platform developed by C-DOT and based on the international Common Alerting Protocol.

To date, disaster management authorities have used the system to send over 134 billion SMS alerts in more than 19 Indian languages during natural disasters, weather warnings, and cyclonic events.

The new Cell Broadcast technology represents a significant upgrade over traditional SMS alerts. Unlike regular SMS notifications, Cell Broadcast alerts are designed to grab immediate attention. When triggered, they override normal phone settings, producing a sharp alarm sound along with a prominent on-screen message, ensuring that even users with their devices on silent or do-not-disturb modes are notified. The system is designed to deliver critical information during natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and lightning strikes, as well as man-made crises including gas leaks and chemical hazards.

Once fully operationalised, the Cell Broadcast system will disseminate alerts across all mobile handsets regardless of individual settings, ensuring wide and inclusive public reach during actual emergencies.




## 'EXTREMELY SEVERE', BUT WHY?

**TECHNOLOGY**
Built by C-DOT, the system which uses Cell Broadcast (CB), can instantly reach all compatible devices in a targeted area during disasters, overriding silent and do-not-disturb modes.

**PLATFORM**
The alerts are sent through the government's SACHET platform, which is part of an effort to enhance disaster preparedness.

**FUNCTIONALITY**
The system works without requiring internet access or mobile apps.

**PURPOSE**
Designed to deliver critical information instantly during disasters such as tsunamis, earthquakes, flash floods, and man-made emergencies like gas leaks and chemical hazards.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
Users might hear a loud, distinct alarm and see the message in Hindi, English, or regional languages.

**URGENT ATTENTION**
Unlike regular SMS notifications, Cell Broadcast alerts are designed to grab immediate attention, ensuring it cannot be missed.

**OPERATIONAL SCOPE**
The system covers all 28 states and 8 Union Territories, providing blanket coverage to enhance public preparedness.

QUICK READ

## Senior police officer Lavanya dies after cancer

**Bengaluru**

Senior police officer B.N. Lavanya passed away after battling cancer. She died at a private hospital in the city, officials confirmed. Lavanya was serving as SP in Bescom Vigilance since 2023. Originally from Chikkaballapur district, she had earlier worked in Mandya and Ballari in key roles. She also served in intelligence and DCRE units in Bengaluru. Lavanya is survived by her young son and daughter. Senior officials had recently visited and supported her during treatment. Her death has saddened colleagues and the police department across the state deeply.

## Dowry tragedy: Young mother found dead hanging

**BENGALURU**

A tragic incident unfolded in Hulimavu where 23-year-old Vandana was found hanging in her home. Married for three years and a mother to a tiny three-month-old, her sudden death has sparked outrage. Vandana's parents allege that her husband, Vikramshesha, and his relatives relentlessly harassed her for dowry despite repeated counseling. After receiving a distressing call from her husband, the family rushed to help, but it was too late. Police have registered a dowry harassment case against the in-laws. Meanwhile, in Adugodi, authorities are also investigating the mysterious death of a former corporate employee.

## Four bin waste plan faces early trouble

**BENGALURU**

Government of India introduced the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, requiring homes to separate waste into four types, but early challenges are already visible in Bengaluru. The system adds "special care waste" like bulbs and medicines to existing categories. Officials from Bangalore Solid Waste Management Limited say the city is preparing quickly, even though there is an 18-month timeline. However, residents and groups like Bangalore Apartment Federation raise concerns over high costs, unclear rules, and poor collection systems. Some say private vendors may not handle the waste load properly. Workers also report health risks from sorting mixed waste when citizens fail to separate it. Experts stress that success depends on better awareness.

# New Bengaluru township to bring massive riches

The newly rebranded Greater Bengaluru Authority township is projected to generate over ₹15,000 crore in surplus for Karnataka's treasury.

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka government is eyeing a massive financial windfall from the newly rebranded Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) suburban township. Formerly known as the Bidadi satellite project, this ambitious urban expansion is expected to generate a staggering surplus of over ₹15,000 crore for the state's treasury.Official documents reveal that while the project will cost around ₹18,133 crore to build, the government expects to pull in total revenues of ₹33,562 crore. This money will come from selling developed land for industrial and commercial use, with prices expected to hover around ₹2,200 to ₹2,300 per square foot. The plan also includes earnings from property taxes and special building fees.To make the project a reality, the government is focusing on a fair deal for locals. Landowners who give up their property will receive over 18,000 residential and commercial sites as compensation. After setting aside these plots and mandatory green spaces, nearly half of the 7,814-acre area will be available for the government to develop and sell.The project has faced over a decade of delays, but officials are now pushing for a fast-track three-year completion goal. They argue that moving quickly is essential to prevent land costs from skyrocketing. With international consultants soon to be hired and major funding secured from banks and local authorities, the GBA township is set to become a primary engine for the city's growth. The government believes this modern hub will ease pressure on Bengaluru while padding the state's budget.

*A sudden flash flood devastated Bengaluru's iconic Bookworm bookstore, but a passionate community rallied to help it recover.*

# Community rallies to save flooded famous bookstore

**BENGALURU**

A mere 40 minutes of heavy rain and hail turned a quiet evening into a disaster for Bookworm, one of Church Street's most iconic landmarks. The flash flood destroyed nearly 5,000 books, including rare 19th-century history volumes and vintage first editions.

Owner Krishna Gowda explained that while the shop had survived many monsoons over the last 20 years, the recent storm was different. Large hailstones blocked the building's drainage, causing water to surge nearly a foot deep into the store. Because the shop had recently stocked up for the summer holidays, thousands of books were stacked on the floor, leaving them vulnerable to the rising water.

The financial loss is estimated between ₹10 lakh and ₹14 lakh, but the cultural loss is even greater. However, the tragedy has sparked an incredible wave of support. High-profile authors like Ramachandra Guha, major publishers like Penguin, and even rival bookstore owners have stepped in to help.

The city's reading community has flooded the store, not just with messages, but with action. Many are buying "damp and soiled" books or gift coupons to help the shop

recover. Gowda, moved by the response, has politely declined direct donations, asking supporters instead to simply buy a book. This overwhelming show of love proves that while the water may have ruined the paper, it couldn't dampen the spirit of Bengaluru's dedicated bibliophiles. The store remains resolute in its mission to bring the shelves back to life.

## SC clears path for mega market

**BENGALURU**

Karnataka's plan to build a massive "Mega Krishi Market" in Bengaluru has finally received the green light from the Supreme Court.

Minister for Agriculture Marketing, Shivananda Patil, announced that the government has emerged victorious in three major legal battles that had stalled agricultural development for over three decades.

The most significant victory involves roughly 272 acres of land near Magadi Road.

This land acquisition had been trapped in litigation since 1994. While lower courts previously suggested the acquisition had "lapsed," a Supreme Court bench led by Justice B.V. Nagarathna upheld the government's right to the property.

This prime land, valued at hundreds of crores, will now be used to create a modern hub for farmers and traders.

# City clears dangerous walls after fatal collapse

**Following the fatal Bowring Hospital wall collapse, the GBA has launched an urgent citywide safety drive to demolish dilapidated structures and clear hazardous storm-damaged trees.**

**BENGALURU**

Following the tragic collapse of a compound wall at Bowring Hospital that claimed seven lives earlier this week, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has launched a massive safety drive. Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao ordered the immediate removal of all dilapidated walls and buildings across the city that pose a threat to public safety.The crackdown began with demolition crews targeting several high-risk structures. On Binnymill Road, officials pulled down a massive 25-foot-high wall after a large section of it crumbled during recent storms. In Malleswaram, another 240-meter stretch of unsafe wall at the Mysore Lamps premises was razed to prevent a potential disaster.

The urgency comes after Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar directed the GBA to secure the city against worsening weather. Heavy rains on April 29 and May 1 have already wreaked havoc, uprooting 444 trees and snapping over 1,000 branches across various neighborhoods.

Maheshwar Rao has now instructed the commissioners of all five city corporations to form special task forces. these teams, including fire and police personnel, will patrol the streets to identify hazardous trees and weak structures before the next downpour.

"Our priority is to ensure that no more lives are lost to preventable accidents," Rao stated. With more heavy rain predicted in the coming days, the GBA is racing against time to clear hundreds of dangerous sites to protect residents from further untoward incidents.

## Khandre defends poor against surging gas costs

**BENGALURU**

Karnataka's Minister for Forest and Environment, Eshwar Khandre, launched a blistering attack on the Central government, accusing the BJP of showing its "anti-poor colors" following a steep hike in commercial gas prices. His comments come just a day after oil marketing companies raised the price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder by a historic ₹993.Speaking to reporters in the city, Khandre highlighted that the price of a single commercial cylinder has now crossed the ₹3,150 mark in Bengaluru.

## GBA takes over urban land use control

**BENGALURU**

In a major relief for homeowners, the Karnataka High Court has ruled that Revenue Department officials no longer have the authority to issue notices or demolition orders for houses built on agricultural land within the city's limits. The ruling clarifies that such powers now belong strictly to the newly formed Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). The decision came after a group of residents from Sainik Vihara Layout challenged a Tehsildar's order. The local official had demanded they clear their land, claiming it was being used for housing without being legally converted from agricultural use.

The residents argued that since their neighborhood falls under the city's urban jurisdiction, the traditional rural land laws should not apply to them.A division bench, led by Justice D.K. Singh and Justice T.M. Nadaf, agreed with the residents.

The court explained that once an area falls under the GBA, the Karnataka Land Revenue Act loses its grip. Even if the land is still listed as "agricultural" in old government records, only GBA officials can take action regarding building permissions or illegal constructions.This ruling effectively stops revenue officers from enforcing old land-use rules from the past decade.

## Prioritize rule of law, CM tells secretaries

**BENGALURU**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued a stern directive to state secretaries, urging them to prioritize the rule of law over political pressure. During a high-level meeting, the CM emphasized that the government's reputation rests on the integrity and agility of its top officials.

The Chief Minister warned that misleading the government or providing incorrect information is unacceptable. "Officials serve for decades, while representatives are here for five years," he noted, reminding secretaries of their duty to protect democratic values. He referenced Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's warnings, stating that straying from legal frameworks to please politicians could lead to a breakdown of the system.A major focus of the meeting was the slow implementation of budget promises. Siddaramaiah expressed frustration that 15 announcements from last year remain unfulfilled. He demanded that all 565 projects in the 2026-27 budget begin by the end of May. To ensure accountability, he stated that department secretaries would be held personally responsible for any further delays.The CM also addressed public grievances, noting that while thousands of applications have been cleared, nearly 2,000 are overdue. He ordered immediate action on these to maintain public trust. Additionally, with a predicted 5% dip in rainfall this year, he tasked district secretaries with monitoring drinking water supplies closely. He concluded by urging officials to fill thousands of vacant government posts quickly to keep the state's administration running smoothly.

## "Half of Bengaluru" flees city for weekend

**BENGALURU**

As the May long weekend kicks off, Bengaluru's infamous traffic has shifted from the city center to the highways, sparking a viral social media debate about where everyone has disappeared to. A witty comment by an X user claiming "Half of Bangalore" is currently stuck in different hill stations has taken the internet by storm.The buzz began when a local resident, Sanjeev, posted a video of the Bengaluru–Mangaluru Highway showing miles of bumper-to-bumper traffic. Replying to the clip, another user named Abhi joked that "Half Bangalore will be in Chikmagalur – Sakleshpur. The other half will be in Mysuru – Kodagu." He added that he planned to stay behind and enjoy the rare luxury of empty city roads.The post quickly went viral as thousands of residents recognized the relatable pattern of mass weekend getaways. Other netizens joined in, pointing out that thousands of "KA-01" to "KA-05" registered vehicles are also currently clogging the roads toward Goa, Dandeli, and Wayanad. While the highways resemble parking.

## Bengaluru auto driver turns ride into lounge

**BENGALURU**

In a city famous for its creative commute stories, one autorickshaw driver has officially raised the bar by transforming his vehicle into a luxury "compact lounge." A local passenger, Poorna, was left speechless after hailing a ride that felt more like a high-end hotel room than a typical three-wheeler.Taking to Instagram to share her "crazy auto" experience, Poorna showcased a vehicle fully equipped with a television unit, a cooling fan, and a mobile charging station.

## KARNATAKA BUS STRIKE LOOMING: SERVICES TO HALT ON MAY 20

**BENGALURU**

Commuters across Karnataka are facing a major travel crisis as transport workers from all four state corporations announced a massive indefinite strike starting May 20. The standoff between the Joint Action Committee of Transport Employees and the state government has reached a breaking point after multiple rounds of failed negotiations.

Representing over 1.25 lakh employees from KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC, union leaders stated that buses will stop plying from 6 a.m. on the deadline. The workers' frustration stems from long-pending financial grievances. Their core demands include a 25% hike in basic salary effective from January 2024, the immediate release of ₹1,272 crore in back pay, and the settlement of arrears dating back to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have reached a stage where we cannot survive without our dues," a union spokesperson said during a press conference. "The government is responsible for any hardship the public faces. This time, we aren't interested in more talks; we want a final settlement." The protest is expected to be total, with drivers, conductors, and mechanical staff all staying home.While the government has previously cited budget constraints for the delays, the transport unions have warned that they will not "touch the steering wheel" until their bank accounts show the promised funds. With less than three weeks to go, millions of daily passengers are now waiting to see if the government will blink first to avoid a complete paralysis of the state's transport lifeline.

SILK BOARD'S ELEVATED ESCAPE

# *Bengaluru's new double-decker flyover finally open for public*

**BENGALURU**

Bengaluru commuters finally received a massive gift, as the long-awaited double-decker flyover between Central Silk Board and Ragigudda officially opened to traffic. The 3.5km elevated corridor, which cost ₹500 crore to build, promises to significantly slash travel time on one of the city's most congested routes.

Built by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd as part of the new Yellow Line, the project is a marvel of modern engineering. It features a unique design where Metro trains will run on the upper level while cars and bikes use the road below.

This "two-in-one" approach is intended to tackle the infamous traffic bottlenecks at Silk Board, once known as the city's most dreaded junction.

Construction on this ambitious project began in 2017. While a small section was opened in 2024, the full stretch including five new ramps, is now fully operational. After a brief trial run last week to fix safety issues, authorities gave the green light for regular use.

While the flyover has already eased the pressure at Silk Board, traffic experts noted that congestion has shifted slightly toward the Ragigudda end.

To manage this, traffic police have introduced new one-way rules on nearby streets to keep vehicles moving smoothly. For thousands of daily travelers, this opening marks the end of a nearly decade-long wait for a faster, smoother commute through the heart of South Bengaluru.

## QUICK READ

### Fire breaks out at Nanthoor apartment in Mangaluru

**Mangaluru**
A fire incident was reported at an apartment near Nanthoor Junction in Mangaluru. Residents noticed smoke and alerted the authorities immediately. Personnel from Kadri fire station rushed to the location and brought the blaze under control. The fire was extinguished successfully after a short operation. Several household items kept in the affected room were damaged in the incident. Officials are yet to ascertain the total extent of the loss caused. No casualties were reported in the fire. Fire department officials advised residents to follow safety precautions and ensure electrical appliances are switched off when not in use to prevent similar incidents in the future across residential areas.

### MLC Ivan D'Souza urges action on rising fuel costs

**Mangaluru**
MLC Ivan D'Souza has alleged that the rise in prices of commercial gas cylinders, petrol, and diesel is due to the policies of the BJP-led central government. Speaking in Mangaluru, he said that increasing fuel and cooking gas prices are placing a heavy financial burden on ordinary people and affecting household budgets. He blamed government decisions for the worsening economic pressure on citizens. He further said that common people are struggling due to continuous price hikes in essential commodities. He urged the government to take immediate steps to control fuel and gas prices and provide relief to the public. He demanded swift policy intervention from authorities.

### Postal ballot boxes opened before recount alleges Rajegowda

**Chikkamagaluru**
Congress MLA T.D. Rajegowda has alleged that postal ballot boxes in the Sringeri Assembly constituency were opened before the scheduled recount process. He raised the issue ahead of the court-ordered recount of postal votes being conducted under official supervision. According to him, the alleged incident took place before the formal recount procedure began, raising concerns about the integrity of the process. Rajegowda said such actions question the transparency of the election system and demanded accountability from the concerned authorities. He urged election officials to strictly follow procedures and ensure fairness during the recount process. The matter has drawn political attention in the closely contested constituency recently.

# 25,000 crore urban push boosts Karnataka cities

Karnataka launches 25,000 crore urban development drive to upgrade 100 cities with fast-track infrastructure projects statewide

**CH NEWS,** SHIVAMOGGA

- 25,000 crore urban plan launched
- 100 cities to be upgraded
- Eight-month deadline for completion
- Shivamogga projects worth 127 crore
- Focus on infrastructure development growth
- Housing support for workers proposed

Karnataka has launched major urban development initiatives worth 25,000 crore aimed at transforming 100 cities across the state, Urban Development Minister Bairathi Suresh announced on Saturday. He said the government has directed departments to complete the works within eight months, marking a fast-track approach to infrastructure improvement.

The minister was speaking after laying foundation stones for development projects worth 127 crore in Shivamogga, including works under the second phase of the Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Vikas Yojana and NGT-funded projects. He also attended the naming ceremony of the D. S. Bangarappa Layout at Bommanakatte Ashraya colony.

Suresh said that over 2,000 crore is being spent on development across 13 municipal corporations in the state. He claimed the state government, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, is driving Karnataka's growth with large-scale welfare and infrastructure programmes.

He highlighted that 1.30 crore women beneficiaries receive 2,000 monthly under guarantee schemes, with the government spending about 52,000 crore annually on welfare initiatives. He also asserted that the state, not the Centre, is funding major urban projects including Smart City developments.

Responding to opposition criticism, he said all public funds belong to citizens and development must reach the last person in society, following Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's principles.

Local MLA S. N. Channabasappa urged timely completion of projects and raised demands for 27 crore for sanitation workers' housing. Other legislators also sought long-term planning for Shivamogga's growing population, which has now crossed four lakh.

Officials said the projects aim to upgrade urban infrastructure, housing, and basic services across rapidly growing cities in Karnataka.

# Gas price hike makes life difficult: Bairathi Suresh

**CH NEWS,** SHIVAMOGGA

**Minister Bairathi Suresh criticises gas price hike, saying it burdens the poor, while highlighting ongoing development works and government welfare initiatives in Shivamogga**

Urban Development Minister Bairathi Suresh has criticised the central government over the recent increase in commercial gas prices, stating that the move has made life difficult for the poor.

Speaking to reporters during a foundation-laying ceremony for various development works at Bommanakatte Ashraya layout, he alleged that the Centre raised gas prices soon after elections in five states concluded, calling it unfair to common people. He said a sudden increase of around 993 in gas cylinder prices has severely impacted economically weaker sections. He also accused the central government of creating divisions among communities and questioned its economic policies. He pointed out that while even small price hikes by the previous Congress government were protested by the BJP, the current steep increase had gone unchallenged by them.

Defending electricity tariff revisions, he said rising fuel prices naturally impact power costs. "If petroleum product prices go up, electricity rates will also rise," he added.

On cabinet expansion, the minister said the decision rests entirely with the party high command and that all leaders must abide by it. He remarked that political positions are temporary and leaders should continue working as long as they hold office. He also referred to past changes in BJP governments to justify cabinet reshuffles.

Suresh further announced that 2600 crore has been allocated under the Mahatma Gandhi Nagar Vikas Yojana for 13 municipal corporations, including 200 crore for Shivamogga. He said tenders have already been called and work will begin soon. He added that development projects under Smart City and other schemes will continue without interruption.

# Coastal Karnataka hopes rise for High Court circuit bench

**MANGALURU**

The long-pending demand for a High Court circuit bench in Mangaluru has gained fresh momentum after the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court agreed to conduct a site inspection of the proposed location.

The development is being seen as a positive step for improving access to justice in coastal Karnataka, especially for litigants from Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and neighbouring districts who currently travel to Bengaluru for court hearings. Legal professionals, bar associations, and public representatives have repeatedly argued that a circuit bench would significantly reduce case backlog and ease the burden on the principal bench. According to reports, the inspection will focus on evaluating available infrastructure, including court halls, administrative offices, and residential facilities for judges and staff.

The feasibility study is expected to play a crucial role in determining whether the circuit bench can be established in Mangaluru. Stakeholders in the region have welcomed the move, stating that it reflects long-standing public sentiment and the need for decentralised judicial services. If approved, the circuit bench is expected to speed up case disposal and reduce travel time and expenses for thousands of litigants.

Further procedural steps, including committee review and final approval, are likely to follow after the inspection is completed. The proposal continues to be closely watched by legal circles and civil society groups across coastal Karnataka. Officials said that any final decision will depend on administrative clearances, infrastructure readiness, and judicial workload assessments, and the process is expected to continue in the coming months as consultations progress with stakeholders at various levels across the region.

# Yakshagana and drama thrive in Udupi, says Dr H S Ballal

**UDUPI**

Theatre and performing arts play a key role in building a cultured society, said Dr H S Ballal, Pro-Chancellor of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, at the valedictory of the two-day "Anandootsava" organised by Rangabhoomi Udupi. He noted that art forms such as drama, Yakshagana, and theatre have flourished in Udupi due to sustained support from organisations and entrepreneurs. He said individuals who contribute positively through creative and social work become valuable assets to society.

The event was held at the new Ravindra Mantapa of MGM College in memory of late Kuppadi Ananda Ganiga, founder of Rangabhoomi Udupi. During the ceremony, Manohar S Shetty, head of Sai Radha group of institutions, was conferred the "Tallur's Samskruti Sadhaka Award", sponsored by the Tallur Girija Shivaram Shetty family trust.

Speaking after receiving the award, Manohar S Shetty said that messages conveyed through theatre serve as a guiding light for society. He appreciated Rangabhoomi Udupi for nurturing many talented artists and recalled the contributions of Ananda Ganiga in strengthening the organisation. Dr Tallur Shivaram Shetty, president of Rangabhoomi Udupi, said that Ananda Ganiga dedicated 45 years to the growth of the organisation. He added that 15 achievers have been honoured through the award initiative so far.

Dr Sudhakar Shetty, Girija Shivaram Shetty, Sunil Kumar Shetty, Bhaskar Rao Kidiyoor, N R Ballal, Anuradha Manohar Shetty, and others were present on the occasion.

The programme highlighted the importance of preserving cultural traditions and encouraging young artists to contribute to society through performing arts.

*Fr Francis Xavier Lewis appointed Vicar General of Udupi Diocese, marking key leadership transition in Karnataka Church.*

# Fr Francis Xavier Lewis appointed Udupi Vicar General

**MANGALURU**

Fr Francis Xavier Lewis has been appointed as the new Vicar General of the Udupi Diocese by Most Rev. Dr Leslie Clifford D'Souza, the Bishop of Udupi. The appointment was formally marked during a religious ceremony held at the Bishop's House on Saturday, where Fr Lewis also took charge after the oath-taking service.

The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Leslie Clifford D'Souza and included a prayer service attended by V. Rev. Fr Stephen D'Souza, Chancellor of the Diocese, members of the College of Consultors, Rev. Fr Jithesh Castelino, and Mr Marcel D'Souza, the Procurator.

Fr Francis Xavier Lewis, originally from Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Pernal, was born on 20 October 1960. He is the son of the late John Lewis and Theresa Lewis and comes from a family of four siblings. He entered the seminary of the Diocese of Mangalore on 30 June 1976 and was ordained a priest on 28 April 1987.

Over nearly four decades of ministry, he has served in multiple pastoral and administrative roles across Karnataka. His early mission work included service in Bidar, Bhalki, Jalasangi–Humnabad, and Basava Kalyan from 1987 to 1997. He later held parish leadership roles in Bajal, Manipal, Mudarangadi, and Kalathur. He also contributed significantly to church communications as Director of the Canara Communication Centre, Vocation Service Centre, and Sandesha – Regional Communication Centre, as well as serving as Public Relations Officer of the Diocese of Mangalore.

Alongside his new role as Vicar General, Fr Lewis has been appointed Rector and Parish Priest of Our Lady of Milagres Cathedral, Kallianpur, and Vicar Forane of St Andrew Deanery, effective 18 May 2026.

# Postal vote recount continues, Congress workers celebrate

**SRINGERI**

The recounting of postal ballots in Sringeri constituency continued amid heightened political tension, even as supporters of the Congress party were seen celebrating in anticipation of favourable results before the official declaration.

According to reports, the counting process of postal votes is still underway and election authorities have not yet announced the final outcome. However, early trends and partial figures circulating during the recount triggered celebrations among Congress party workers, who gathered outside counting centres expressing confidence in victory.

The situation created a festive atmosphere among party supporters, with slogans, distribution of sweets, and informal gatherings taking place even before the formal completion of the counting process. Authorities, however, maintained that no official result has been declared and urged the public to wait for confirmation.

Election officials continued strict monitoring of the recount process to ensure transparency and adherence to procedures. Security arrangements were also tightened at counting centres to avoid any untoward incidents amid growing excitement among party cadres.

Political observers noted that postal ballots often play a crucial role in closely contested constituencies, and even small shifts in numbers can influence the final outcome. As a result, both candidates and supporters are closely watching each stage of the counting process.

Officials reiterated that premature celebrations can sometimes lead to confusion, as final results are subject to verification and completion of all counting rounds. They appealed for restraint until the Election Commission formally announces the outcome.

The recounting process is expected to continue until all postal votes are fully verified and tallied, after which the official result will be declared for Sringeri constituency.

**COASTAL TOURISM RUSH**

# *Coastal Karnataka sees tourist rush despite summer heat*

**UDUPI**

- Heavy weekend tourist rush
- Visitors from Bengaluru and Mysuru
- Beaches crowded despite summer heat
- Hotels and lodges fully occupied
- Major traffic congestion reported

Coastal Karnataka witnessed a significant surge in tourist and pilgrim footfall during the holiday weekend, even as intense summer heat prevailed across the region. Popular destinations in Karnataka, especially the twin coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, saw heavy crowds as a long weekend brought together Labour Day holidays, summer vacations, and limited working days.

Tourists from Bengaluru, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Kolar arrived in large numbers with families, leading to full occupancy in most hotels across Mangaluru and nearby areas. Key beaches such as Panambur, Tannirbhavi, Surathkal and Someshwar were packed with visitors throughout the day, despite the harsh sun. Traffic congestion was also reported on highways and within city limits due to the influx of private vehicles.

Religious and pilgrimage centres also experienced a sharp rise in devotees. Temples including Subrahmanya, Dharmasthala, Kateel, Bappanadu and Mangaladevi witnessed heavy crowds. In Udupi district, major attractions such as Sri Krishna Matha and beaches like Maravanthe saw continuous visitor flow.

At Malpe Beach alone, over 10,000 to 12,000 tourists were estimated to have visited in a single day. Visitors enjoyed water sports activities such as jet ski rides, banana boat rides and speed boating, with parking areas overflowing and vehicles parked along nearby roads.

A major crowd was also reported at Kollur Sri Mookambika Temple, where more than 35,000 devotees visited on May 1, causing long queues stretching beyond the main road. Temple authorities and staff worked to manage the unprecedented rush and ensure smooth darshan.

With the tourist season expected to continue until mid-May, the coastal belt is likely to remain busy in the coming weeks.

## Midday rest ordered for workers amid heatwave

**MANDYA**

With rising temperatures affecting the region, authorities in Mandya district have directed contractors and employers to ensure rest for construction workers from 1 pm to 3 pm at all work sites. Officials said the decision is aimed at protecting workers' health during the ongoing heat conditions. Contractors have also been instructed to provide clean drinking water, toilet facilities, and regular health check-ups for labourers. The Labour Department warned that employers will be held responsible if any health-related incidents occur due to negligence. District Sub-Divisional Labour Officer Dr M Savita said strict implementation of the safety measures is mandatory across all construction sites in the district.

## Special Lok Adalat for case settlement

**HAVERI**

A special Lok Adalat named Samadana Samaroh-2026 will be held on August 21, 22 and 23 to settle pending cases through compromise. Senior Civil Judge Srishailaja said 4,328 cases have been identified statewide for settlement, including 81 in Haveri district. Cases include banking, insurance, motor accident claims, consumer disputes, criminal, family, labour and industrial matters. Citizens can register through Taluka Legal Services Committees or the District Legal Services Authority. Officials said the aim is quick and friendly settlement of disputes. Awareness programmes were also discussed through video conference with legal authorities across Karnataka this year planned.

## Safety kits distributed for construction workers

**MANDYA**

The Ambedkar Labour Service Centres have supplied occupational safety kits for registered construction workers in Mandya district, officials said. Workers who have already registered have begun receiving the kits. Those who are registered but have not yet received them can apply to become beneficiaries and collect the safety kits from the Labour Department. Eligible workers must submit valid worker identity cards and copies of Aadhaar cards at the respective taluk labour inspector offices. Authorities said the initiative aims to improve safety at construction sites. For more details, workers can contact the Sub-Divisional Labour Office in Mandya or nearby taluk labour inspector offices, said Dr M Savita in a statement.

# Congress missing in five state elections fight: Joshi

Joshi said Congress faces voter trust issues and weak ground presence, also citing internal leadership disputes and controversies

**DAVANAGERE**

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday attacked the Congress party saying it is missing from the five state elections and people are aware of its weak position under Rahul Gandhi leadership.Speaking to reporters in Davanagere he said voting has been held in five states and results will be declared on May 4 and he expressed confidence that BJP will perform strongly under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.He also claimed that Congress is facing setbacks in several states including West Bengal Assam and Kerala while BJP is expected to win more seats than earlier predictions. Joshi criticized West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee saying her reaction shows fear of defeat and alleged misuse of administrative machinery during elections. He further said Congress is also struggling with internal leadership issues and confusion over the Chief Minister post while BJP remains focused on development and governance.Responding to LPG price rise he said commercial cylinder prices are decided by companies and global supply issues and assured that prices may reduce after conditions stabilize. He also raised allegations about corruption and law and order issues in Congress ruled states and said BJP would continue to highlight public concerns during campaigns. He said upcoming election outcomes will strengthen BJP position across the country and reflect public support for the leadership at the centre.Joshi added that Congress is facing trust issues among voters and lacks strong ground presence in many regions according to his statement. He also commented on internal Congress leadership disputes saying names of senior leaders are being dragged into unnecessary political discussions.The minister said BJP candidates are confident in both upcoming by elections in Karnataka and expect strong voter turnout in their favour. He urged party workers to continue reaching voters and highlight development works carried out under the central government schemes across states. Joshi concluded that BJP is confident of forming strong governments in several states after results are announced on May 4. Voting process across the country was peaceful and administration ensured proper arrangements in all polling stations said officials reports confirm.

# Vijayendra hints political changes in Karnataka

**MYSURU**

BJP State President B. Y. Vijayendra on Saturday hinted at possible political changes in Karnataka, saying statements by Mallikarjun Kharge suggest discussions about a Chief Minister change in the state.

Speaking to media after visiting Suttur Math near Chamundi Hills, Vijayendra said there is speculation within Congress, with some leaders supporting Kharge while others backing D. K. Shivakumar for the top post. He said the situation will become clear in the coming days.

He also announced preparations for a major event marking the political journey of B. S. Yediyurappa in Chitradurga on May 9. Vijayendra said Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to attend, along with farmers, women, and religious leaders. He described it as a large gathering planned to honour Yediyurappa's contribution to the state.

Clarifying that the event is not politically motivated, Vijayendra said it is being organised as a mark of respect and gratitude, not for electoral gain. He added that leaders like Govinda Karjol had expressed interest in hosting the programme in Chitradurga.

Vijayendra also criticised the Congress government, alleging lack of development and rising issues such as drug abuse in Mysuru. He claimed corruption and internal power struggles are affecting governance.

He further said upcoming by-election results could serve as a lesson for Congress leaders, indicating dissatisfaction within their ranks.

Vijayendra said Congress leadership speculation continues; he announced May 9 event for B.S. Yediyurappa in Chitradurga, expected attendance of Amit Shah and others

*Horatti urged non-political cooperation for North Karnataka development, highlighting Lakkundi heritage and praising villagers for handing over artefacts*

# Basavaraj Horatti praises Lakkundi historical importance

**GADAG**

Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said that the historic town of Lakkundi is on track to be included in the World Heritage List soon. He said this on Saturday while speaking at a programme held in Lakkundi, adding that the town's ancient beauty creates a strong sense of pride rather than discomfort.Horatti said recent discoveries of archaeological objects and gold coins have brought Lakkundi into the spotlight at both state and national levels. He noted that a place once seen only as a small stop is now recognized for its deep historical value.

He praised the efforts of Minister H. K. Patil, saying that Lakkundi's history has now reached a wider audience. The town is known for its ancient temples, stepwells, lakes, and detailed stone carvings that reflect the skill of early craftsmen. He said such work would be difficult even with modern technology.

Horatti appealed for non political cooperation for the development of North Karnataka, saying heritage sites like Lakkundi can drive regional growth. He also appreciated villagers for handing over discovered artefacts to authorities, calling it a rare and honest practice.Minister H. K. Patil said the government is preparing a major plan to develop Lakkundi into one of India's top archaeological centres. He said the goal is to reveal over 100 temples and stepwells within a year and promote the site as a global attraction.He said several restoration works are already underway, including temples and ancient wells. So far, more than 70 monuments have been identified and restored, with over 1200 artefacts numbered for study.

Patil added that about 10.16 crore rupees have been released for development works, including restoration of key temples and heritage structures. He said an open air museum is also planned to showcase the region's history.

Experts estimate that recently discovered gold items alone are worth around eight crore rupees. Officials said more excavations may reveal even greater historical treasures in the coming years.

MLA C. C. Patil also praised villagers for their cooperation, saying their support has helped uncover Lakkundi's ancient glory. He said ongoing work may reveal a new chapter of history for the region.Officials present said coordinated efforts between government, archaeologists, and local residents will continue to promote Lakkundi as a major heritage tourism destination for the world.

## Court orders reinstatement for acquitted power workers

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka High Court has come to the rescue of two power department workers who were fired after being jailed on murder charges they didn't commit. The court quashed a dismissal order by the Mangalore Electricity Supply Company (MESCOM), ruling that being in prison is an "unavoidable situation" and cannot be treated as a voluntary resignation.

The workers, Gopalakrishna and Ashok Kumar, were temporary "gangmen" who were arrested in 2005. While they were stuck in judicial custody fighting the charges, MESCOM fired them for being absent from work without permission. After years of legal battles, the men were eventually acquitted and cleared of all wrongdoing, but the company refused to take them back, claiming they had waited too long to appeal.

# Hunsur Rathotsava seen as step toward equality

**HUNSUR**

A traditional chariot festival at the ancient Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple in Hunsur has been highlighted as a strong example of social change and unity, with leaders calling it a step towards ending caste barriers.

Speaking at the event, Ningraj Malladi, state organisation coordinator of Dasansa, said the town reflects the spirit of 12th-century social reform ideas associated with Basavanna and his vision of equality through Anubhava Mantapa.

He said that in earlier times, Dalits were not allowed to enter Brahmin streets and had to stand at a distance. However, this year's Rathotsava saw a significant change as members of the Dalit community were invited to participate in pulling the temple chariot alongside Brahmin community leaders.Malladi said this gesture reflects the breakdown of long-standing social barriers and promotes dignity, respect, and coexistence. He described it as an important moment in the fight against untouchability and a model for wider society.He added that such inclusion has helped improve social harmony and reduced historical tensions between communities. He also said the event showed that cooperation can replace division when traditions evolve with time.

# Belagavi hotels protest sudden LPG price hike

**BELAGAVI**

Hotel owners in Belagavi have expressed strong anger after the recent increase in commercial LPG cylinder prices and PNG gas rates affecting daily operations across the city. They said the price hike will heavily impact small and big hotels, forcing them to reconsider food prices soon. The Hotel Owners Association said LPG prices increased by about Rs 993, while PNG gas also rose, creating serious concern among business owners.

Association president Ajay Pai said the rise in costs of fuel, cooking oil, and other items has already affected the industry badly. He said the latest gas price hike of nearly 35 percent has left hotel owners with no choice but to increase menu prices. However, he added that owners will first hold meetings before deciding new rates and updating menu cards and online price lists. Many hotel owners are also considering switching to alternative fuels like biomass, electricity, and diesel to reduce dependence on LPG gas.

They said they may still be forced to raise prices if costs continue to rise in the coming weeks across markets. Hotel operators also complained about rising PNG gas prices, saying rates differ from city to city without clear explanation from suppliers. They pointed out that Bengaluru and Davangere have lower PNG prices compared to Belagavi, calling it unfair treatment for local businesses.

# SRINGERI POSTAL VOTE RECOUNT CONFIRMS CONGRESS WIN

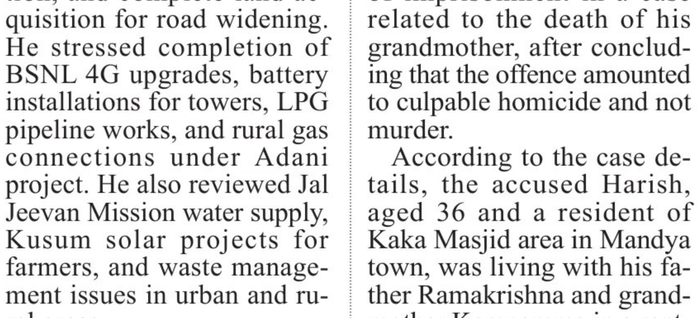
**SRINGERI**

Recount of postal votes in Sringeri assembly constituency ordered by the High Court has been completed and Congress candidate T D Rajegowda has been declared the winner after verification of ballots Officials have confirmed that the margin has changed slightly after recount adding two more votes to the Congress candidate compared to earlier result

Earlier in the 2023 assembly elections Rajegowda had won by a narrow margin of 201 votes but BJP candidate D N Jeevaraj challenged the postal vote counting in High Court The court ordered a fresh recount of postal ballots which was conducted at IDSG College in Chikkamagaluru under official supervision on Saturday After the recount process Congress workers celebrated outside the counting centre with slogans dancing and bursting crackers as the result confirmed their candidate's victoryOfficials said a total of 1822 postal votes were cast and 279 were rejected which later became the basis of legal challenge and court intervention The High Court directed recount following allegations of irregularities raised by the losing BJP candidate leading to prolonged legal proceedings before final verification With the completion of recount authorities are expected to issue final official notification confirming the result of Sringeri constituency election soon

The case had drawn attention as it involved postal ballot verification and raised questions about counting procedures in closely contested rural constituencies

Local party leaders said the victory will strengthen the Congress party in the region and boost confidence among workers after the legal battle They added that the court supervised process has helped clear doubts and ensure transparency in the election process for voters The election officials maintained that all procedures were followed according to rules and postal votes were handled under strict supervision.



**DISTRICT HEALTH MEETING**

# *MP Kota orders stronger public health access*

UDUPI

MP Kota Srinivas Poojary has directed health department officials to ensure that patients referred from district hospitals to private hospitals under the Ayushman Arogya Karnataka scheme receive proper treatment and timely medical help. He raised this issue while chairing the Udupi District Development Coordination and Supervision Committee meeting held at Manipal Rajatadri Zilla Panchayat hall. He said government health schemes are meant for public welfare and must reach every needy patient without delay or difficulty. He noted complaints that patients referred to private hospitals are not getting proper response, and coordinators appointed for support are not working effectively. He instructed officials to take strict action and asked the state director to write to private hospitals regarding the issue. He also called for a district level meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner within a week to resolve pending problems. He expressed concern over delay in ESI Hospital work in Brahmavar and asked for faster implementation of the Rs 2.5 crore project. He reviewed water supply issues, railway infrastructure, road works, BSNL network upgrades, and LPG pipeline progress across the district. He instructed officials to speed up railway water supply planning, improve parking at Indrali station, and complete land acquisition for road widening. He stressed completion of BSNL 4G upgrades, battery installations for towers, LPG pipeline works, and rural gas connections under Adani project. He also reviewed Jal Jeevan Mission water supply, Kusum solar projects for farmers, and waste management issues in urban and rural areas.

# Mandya court sentences man in grandmother killing case

**MANDYA**

A Mandya court has sentenced a man to seven years of imprisonment in a case related to the death of his grandmother, after concluding that the offence amounted to culpable homicide and not murder.

According to the case details, the accused Harish, aged 36 and a resident of Kaka Masjid area in Mandya town, was living with his father Ramakrishna and grandmother Kempamma in a rented house. Police said Harish was unemployed, and his grandmother often advised him to go to work, which led to frequent arguments at home.

On June 22, 2024, while his father had gone to work as usual, Harish allegedly got into an argument with his grandmother after she again advised him to find employment. In a sudden outburst, he reportedly attacked her with a knife, causing fatal injuries near her neck and ear.

sented during the trial.

## QUICK READ

### Homestay registration made mandatory in Kodagu

MADIKERI

The Kodagu district administration has made registration of all homestays with the Karnataka Tourism Department compulsory. Officials said that under the Karnataka Tourism Business Act 2015, any accommodation provided to tourists under homestay or similar services must be officially registered. Authorities noted that several homestays are still operating without registration despite repeated notices. Unregistered units have been warned to stop operations immediately, and some licences have already been cancelled. Legal action will follow for continued violations. Registered homestays with expiring licences have been asked to renew them. Complaints can be reported to tourism and police authorities as per official notice issued in Madikeri.

### Direct interviews announced for job seekers in Manipal

**UDUPI**

A direct interview drive for various job posts will be held on May 5 at 10:30 am at Manipal Payment Identity Solution Limited, located opposite Manohar Bhavan Hotel in Manipal. Officials said candidates with Diploma, ITI, and other degree qualifications are eligible to attend the interview. Applicants must carry their marksheets, updated resume or CV, and a copy of Aadhaar card.The Employment Exchange Office has advised job seekers to take advantage of the opportunity. For further details, candidates can contact the District Employment Exchange Office at Rajatadri, Manipal, or call the given helpline numbers provided in the official notice.

### Free laparoscopic surgery camps announced in Mandya

**MANDYA**

The Zilla Panchayat and District Health and Family Welfare Department in Mandya have announced a laparoscopic surgery camp series from May 5 to May 26, 2026. The camps will be held at different government hospitals across the district on fixed dates. Srirangapatna, Nagamangala, Pandavapura, Maddur, K.R. Pet and Malavalli hospitals are included in the schedule. Officials said camps will begin at 10 am and continue on different days at each location. Health authorities urged eligible patients to use the free service. The programme aims to provide advanced surgical care at government hospitals closer to rural communities in the district.

# Mandya government promises youth development facilities

Minister praised student achievers and officials, stressed interdepartmental coordination, and assured strengthened drinking water supply in coming weeks

**MANDYA**

Our government is committed to providing all the facilities required by the youth of Mandya district said Agriculture and District In-charge Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy. We should help students get education and become good citizens he said while speaking at Mandya University program inauguration. He inaugurated the new main entrance of Mandya University and attended the Nava Vasantha 2026 youth celebration at Boys College campus. He said government support is helping students achieve better results and Mandya secured fifth position in SSLC exams in the state. MLA P Ravikumar said Mandya University is growing fast and will get more facilities including sports stadium and canteen with government funds. Officials including Deputy Commissioner Dr Kumar Zilla Panchayat CEO K R Nandini and police officers attended the event.

In another review meeting Minister Chaluvarayaswamy warned officials about possible drinking water shortage during summer. He said action plans must be prepared quickly as rainfall is expected to be low in coming days. In the district 289 villages have been identified for water problems and 256 are getting water through private borewells. Officials said 167 tube wells are facing shortage and urgent steps are being taken to fix the issue. He also said weekly task force meetings must be held to avoid drinking water crisis. Officials confirmed that fodder supply is sufficient for livestock for 43 weeks and there is no shortage. Water quality testing is also being done in several villages to ensure safety for people.The minister also congratulated students achievers and officials for their performance in exams and public service commission results. He said coordination between departments is important for better management of rural services and infrastructure. Officials assured that drinking water supply will be strengthened in coming weeks to prevent hardship.

Authorities said both education development and drinking water management are top priorities in Mandya district as the government works to improve facilities for students farmers and rural communities during the summer season with continuous monitoring and support from all departments involved in public service delivery across the district ensuring safety and development for all citizens in coming months ahead

# MB Patil speaks on politics and price rise

**Patil said Congress structure must be respected, praised Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar, expressed bypoll confidence, noted price rise**

**VIJAYAPURA**

Minister M. B. Patil spoke to reporters in Devara Hipparagi town of Vijayapura district and shared views on party posts, bypolls, leadership discussions, and price rise. He said he was offered the KPCC president post twice earlier but declined due to minister responsibilities. He added that any interest in future would be informed to the party high command rather than media.

Talking about Congress leadership, he said the party structure must be respected and both government and party roles are important. He praised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar for working together with other leaders and workers. On bypolls in Bagalkote and Davanagere, he expressed confidence that Congress candidates will win both seats. He said internal party meetings and leader discussions are normal and should not be seen as unusual. He also said price rise in fuel and cooking gas has affected common people after recent elections. He compared current prices with past years and said cost of living has increased significantly. He also commented on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy approach, mentioning global relations and economic concerns. He said India's relations with countries like Iran and Palestine need careful handling in current global situation. He warned that international developments could impact India's economy and overall global standing in future. He urged party workers to continue public service and focus on development issues in Karnataka. Leaders present said the party remains confident about upcoming elections and will follow high command decisions.

# Reddyppa panel wins big in teachers' election

**SRINIVASPUR**

The Karnataka State Government Primary School Teachers' Association taluk unit elections in Srinivaspur ended with a clear victory for the panel led by R.S. Ronuru Reddyppa, who is the sitting president.

The election, saw strong competition between two groups with 26 candidates contesting for 13 posts. Counting continued late into the night, and results were announced around 11 pm.

The Reddyppa-led panel secured a strong majority by winning 11 seats, while the opposition managed only two seats. The winning team also made a complete sweep in the women's category by securing all four reserved seats.

In the men's category, the panel won seven out of nine positions, showing broad support among teachers across the taluk.

The election results reflect strong backing for the leadership of R.S. Ronuru Reddyppa, whose panel dominated the polls from start to finish.

Opposition candidates Murthy and B.R.P. Nagaraj managed to win the remaining two seats.

The election was conducted under the supervision of Election Officer J. Gopinath with assistance from officials Lokesh and Hanumegowda. Despite a long counting process, officials said the voting and counting were completed smoothly without major issues.

Teachers from across the taluk actively participated in campaigning over the past few days, discussing issues such as service conditions, school infrastructure, and administrative support.

*Judge said modern lifestyle increases mobile dependence; urged workers to save money, plan wisely, and ensure future security*

# JUDGE URGES WORKERS TO BUILD STABLE, BALANCED LIFE

**CHIKKABALLAPURA**

Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority T.P. Ramalingegowda has urged workers to focus on building a secure and well-balanced life instead of spending heavily on luxuries and unnecessary expenses.

He was speaking at the World Labour Day programme held at Titan Company in the industrial area on the outskirts of Chikkaballapura, jointly organised by the District Legal Services Authority, Bar Association, Labour Department and Titan Company.

The judge said that in today's modern lifestyle, people are increasingly giving importance to mobile phones and other comforts, and workers should instead focus on saving money and improving their future security. He encouraged workers to plan wisely and avoid wasteful spending so they can lead a stable life.

He also stressed the importance of workplace safety, health protection, and basic facilities for workers. He said employers should ensure proper welfare measures and workers should also follow safety guidelines while performing their duties.

Speaking at the event, Bar Association President K.V. Abhilash said workers should

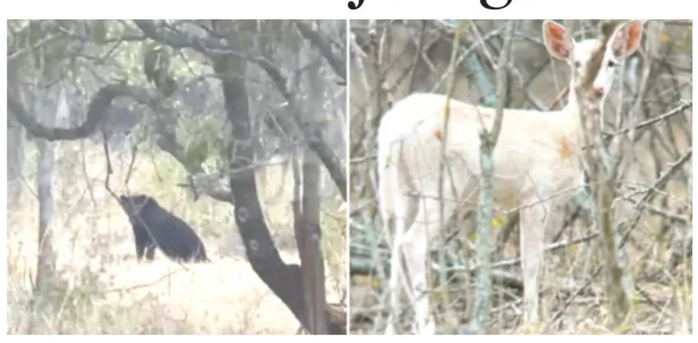
aim to become entrepreneurs in the future and play a key role in national development through their hard work.

Officials from Titan Company, legal authorities, labour department representatives, and workers participated in the programme. Speakers highlighted that Labour Day is a reminder of workers' rights and dignity and the need to ensure better living and working conditions for them.

The programme concluded with messages on discipline, financial awareness, and the importance of worker welfare in building a strong society.

# Rare wildlife sighting thrills safari visitors in Chamarajanagar

**CHAMARAJANAGAR**



Visitors at the P.G. Palya Safari in the Male Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary in Hanur taluk have been excited after witnessing rare wildlife sightings over the past few days. A black leopard was recently spotted in the safari zone, drawing attention from tourists and wildlife lovers.

Forest officials and safari guides said the black leopard was seen for several consecutive days, which is unusual for the region. Tourists also reported seeing another leopard interacting with the black leopard, and many captured the rare moment on their mobile phones.

Earlier, black leopards were mostly known to be seen in the Nagarhole region, making their presence in P.G. Palya safari a special attraction for visitors.

Adding to the excitement, tourists spotted a white deer on Friday during a safari ride in the Hanur buffer zone of the same wildlife sanctuary. The sighting surprised and delighted visitors, as such animals are rarely seen in the wild.

Usually, safari visitors expect to see common wildlife such as elephants, tigers, and bisons. However, the recent sightings of rare animals like the black leopard and white deer have made the safari experience more memorable.

# Minority leaders demand reinstatement, warn of protests

**SRINIVASPUR**

Religious leaders and members of the Muslim community in Srinivaspur have warned of continuing protests until action is reversed against two minority political leaders in the state. The remarks were made during a National Integration programme held near Jamia Masjid on Azad Road.

Community leaders demanded the reinstatement of MLC Nasir Ahmed and MLC Abdul Jabbar, stating that their removal and suspension were unfair and must be withdrawn immediately.

Speaking at the gathering, Maulvi Kaleemullah said national leader Rahul Gandhi had promoted messages of unity and harmony through the Bharat Jodo Yatra, which received wide public support across the country.However, speakers expressed concern that minority leaders in the state were being treated unjustly despite their contribution to electoral success. They said minority communities played an important role in the Congress party's victory in the Karnataka Assembly elections.Religious leaders also referred to recent political developments, stating that denying opportunities and suspending leaders from party positions was against democratic principles. They said such actions could create dissatisfaction among minority voters.The Ulama urged the Congress leadership to immediately restore the positions of the affected leaders and ensure fair representation in the political system. They warned that continued neglect of these demands could have electoral consequences in the future.Several religious scholars and community representatives participated in the programme, stressing the importance of unity and peaceful democratic protest.

The meeting concluded with a call to continue non-violent efforts to protect rights, dignity, and political participation of minority communities in the region.

**INFORMATION COMMISSION RECORD**

# *Karnataka RTI Commission clears record 40k appeals*

**VIJAYAPURA**

The Karnataka Right to Information Commission said it has disposed of 40 thousand second appeal cases in the last one year, marking a record performance in the country. Commissioners Rudranna Hartikote, Rajashekar S, and Belgaum Bench Information Commissioner Prakash Narayan Channal shared this at a press conference in Vijayapura after a training workshop for public information officers. They said the commission is hearing 40 to 60 applications daily in the Belagavi bench through both online and offline modes.

Officials said more focus is given to rural applications related to drinking water, roads, electricity, health and cleanliness issues. They added that action is taken against officers who fail to provide information, including fines, penalties and disciplinary recommendations. Commissioner Prakash Narayan Channal said workshops are being held across districts to improve awareness and reduce delays in RTI responses. He said the Belagavi bench plans to resolve about 6000 to 7000 cases every year through faster processing and monitoring. The commission has also imposed fines worth Rs 42.32 lakh so far for violations of RTI rules. In Vijayapura district alone, Rs 6.50 lakh fine has been collected from officials for non compliance. Commissioners said earlier nearly 59000 applications were pending but most have now been cleared after reforms. They instructed government offices to display RTI boards and respond quickly to first appeal requests from citizens. Officials warned that delay in providing information may lead to daily fines up to Rs 250 per day. They said maximum penalty can reach Rs 25000 along with disciplinary action against negligent officers.

# Kalaburagi plans grand celebration of Mallamma Jayanti

**KALABURAGI**

The district administration in Kalaburagi has decided to celebrate Mahasadvi Hemareddy Mallamma Jayanti on May 10 in a grand and meaningful manner, officials said during a preparatory meeting held at the District Collector's Office.

Tahsildar Umakanta Hille announced that the main district-level programme will be held at 11 am at S.M. Pandit Theatre. He urged officials, community leaders, and the public to participate in large numbers to make the event successful.

He also instructed that Jayanti celebrations must be held at 9 am in all government and semi-government offices, as well as schools and colleges across the district on the same day.

Officials were directed to ensure proper arrangements at the venue, including drinking water, cleanliness, and sanitation facilities for visitors.

QUICK READ

## 4 absconders held in power theft cases

**New Delhi**

Delhi Police's West District unit arrested four proclaimed offenders on Saturday in connection with several cases registered under the Electricity Act. The accused were wanted for electricity-related offences and had been absconding for a long time. The arrests were carried out by a special team from Police Post Madipur under Punjabi Bagh Police Station. Police said the action was part of a focused drive launched to trace and arrest absconders involved in various criminal cases. Further investigation into the electricity offence cases is continuing.

# Cong confident of forming next govt in Assam: Gogoi

### Congress leaders expressed confidence after meeting alliance partners and dismissed exit polls predicting a BJP sweep

**GUWAHATI**

Senior Congress observers DK Shivakumar, Bhupesh Baghel and Jitendra Singh met alliance leaders in Guwahati on Saturday before the Assam Assembly election results on May 4.

Congress has formed an alliance with Raijor Dal, Assam Jatiya Parishad, CPI(M), APHLC and CPI(ML) to challenge the ruling BJP-led NDA.

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi said the alliance partners were united and confident of forming the next government. He claimed farmers, women and young voters supported the opposition alliance for change in the state. Gogoi also asked party

workers to closely monitor strong rooms and remain prepared for counting day arrangements.

Rejecting the exit polls predicting a comfortable BJP victory, Gogoi alleged that the ruling party was trying to influence public opinion by creating a false atmosphere before the results. He said the alliance would not fall into such a trap and remained fully focused on protecting votes during counting.

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar also dismissed the exit poll predictions. He claimed many voters were afraid to openly express their political opinions because of pressure from the ruling party. Shivakumar said Congress conducted its own internal survey and remained confident about winning the election.

He further claimed that some BJP leaders, including candidates and ministers, had privately approached Congress leaders after losing confidence about their chances in the election.

Several exit polls predicted another victory for the BJP-led NDA in Assam. Axis My India projected between 88 and 100 seats for the alliance, while the Congress-led bloc was expected to win between 24 and 36 seats. Other surveys by JVC and Matrize also forecast an advantage for the ruling alliance before counting begins Monday morning.

# India-Ecuador eye preferential trade deal to boost economic ties

**NEW DELHI**

Ecuador's Foreign Minister Gabriela Sommerfeld Rosero completed a two-day official visit to India, aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries across several sectors.

The visit began on April 29 and included discussions on trade, healthcare, agriculture, digital infrastructure, and investment opportunities.

Sommerfeld met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and both leaders agreed to increase cooperation in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, trade, technology, cultural exchanges, and multilateral organisations. During the meeting, Ecuador officially submitted letters confirming its decision to join the International Solar Alliance and the International Big Cat Alliance.India and Ecuador also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Quick Impact Projects. Under the agreement, India will provide grant assistance of up to Rs 12 crore over five years for socio-economic development projects in Ecuador. Officials said the projects are expected to improve living standards and support local communities.The Ecuadorian Foreign Minister later met Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Discussions focused on creating a roadmap for a Preferential Trade Agreement between the two countries.

**Ecuador's Foreign Minister held key meetings in India to strengthen cooperation in trade, healthcare, technology, culture, and development projects between both nations**

Both sides also discussed increasing Indian pharmaceutical exports and strengthening partnerships in minerals such as copper and gold.

Sommerfeld also held talks with Union Health Minister JP Nadda regarding affordable healthcare solutions and medical cooperation. Both countries agreed to work on an MoU for health cooperation and discussed recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia standards in Ecuador.Sommerfeld visited AIIMS' Jan Aushadhi Kendra, explored India's digital systems, paid tribute at Rajghat, attended an industry meeting, and highlighted growing India-Ecuador relations after India opened its Quito embassy.

# Ban cigarettes for those born after 2009: Anbumani

**CHENNAI**

PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss on Saturday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to introduce a law banning the sale of cigarettes and tobacco products to people born on or after January 1, 2009.

He said the move would help create a smoke-free generation in India and protect young people from tobacco addiction.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Anbumani said tobacco use continues to pose a serious public health threat across the country. The former Union Health Minister stated that millions of Indians, especially youth, are affected by smoking and other tobacco-related habits.

Citing global health estimates, he said around 267 million Indians currently use tobacco products, which means nearly one in every five citizens is affected. According to him, tobacco consumption directly causes more than 1.35 million deaths every year, while exposure to second-hand smoke increases the annual death toll to nearly 2.3 million.

Anbumani pointed out that tobacco is one of the leading causes of cancer

and several non-communicable diseases, including heart problems and chronic respiratory illnesses. He claimed tobacco-related cancers alone account for over 4.7 lakh deaths annually in India and contribute to nearly half of all cancer cases reported in the country.

The PMK leader urged the Union government to consider introducing a law similar to the United Kingdom's proposed tobacco policy. He said a generational ban would gradually eliminate tobacco use in India and significantly improve public health in future decades.

## 2 drug smugglers in Gujarat get 10-yr jail

**NADIAD**

A special NDPS Court in Gujarat's Nadiad sentenced two men to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for smuggling more than 220 kg of poppy straw in 2022.

The convicted persons, Jagdish Bhuriya and Dinesh Bhuriya from Madhya Pradesh's Jhabua district, were also fined Rs 1 lakh each under the NDPS Act.

*Australian envoy says the relationship between both nations has reached its strongest stage and can grow even further in coming years.*

# 'India-Australia lucky to have respectful leaders'

**NEW DELHI**

Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green said India and Australia are fortunate to have leaders who respect and understand each other.

He said the relationship between both nations has reached its strongest stage and can grow even further in coming years.Speaking about bilateral ties, Green said India and Australia are becoming more strategically aligned through direct cooperation and the Quad partnership. He added that both countries also share strong economic cooperation because their economies complement each other in several sectors.The envoy highlighted the importance of the Indian-origin community in Australia, describing it as a strong human bridge between the two nations. According to him, more than one million people of Indian origin are helping strengthen relations and cultural understanding between both countries.Green said he has spent over two and a half years in India and remains fascinated by the country's diversity, traditions and culture. He mentioned that he has already visited 21 Indian states and hopes to visit another soon.Talking about his personal experiences, the envoy praised India's rich food culture and said Kerala serves some of his favourite dishes. However, he noted that India's attraction goes far beyond food and cricket.Green also appreciated the opportunity to engage with thoughtful and knowledgeable people across India on global issues, literature and culture. He said India has become a place where he and his wife continue to learn and grow.According to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Indian-Australian community is currently Australia's second-largest and fastest-growing overseas-born population group, further strengthening ties between the two friendly nations.

**Govt.of Karnataka**
**Office of the Executive Engineer**
**Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Chikodi**
Tel. No.: 08338-275101 E-Mail:ee.rdws.ckd@gmail.com
NO: EE/RDW&S/DN-CKD/PB/KW4/TENDER-3/2026-27/99 Date: 27 -04-2026

**TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through kppp only)**

Tenders are invited on behalf of the governor of govt of Karnataka according to KTTP act 2000 through KPPP Portal for the below mentioned works.

**Work Indent No:- Work Indent No:- 9662/Call-3**

**II) Calendar events are as follows :**

i) Date of Pre Bid Meeting:02-05-2026 time 11.00am @ EE R D W & S Division Chikodi, ii) Last date & time for receipt of tenders through e-portal 05-05-2026 upto 17.00 hours. iii) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: on 06-05-2026 at 17.30 hours, iv) Date of Opening of Financial Bid on after approval of technical bid. v) Other conditions & eligibility criteria etc are as published in e-procurement portal. More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through website www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.

**Sd/-Executive Engineer**
**RDW&S Division Chikodi**
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-182/KSMCA/2026-27

**ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ,**
ಸುಲ್ತಾನ್ ಷರೀಫ್ ವೃತ್ತ, ಸತ್ತಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ–571313.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08226–222050 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : acf.nagara@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಎ/ಬಿಯುಡಿ/ಹೊಗು/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ 24.04.2026

**ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಾಗಿ**

2026–27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಆರ್‌ಟಿ ಹುಲಿ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಿತ ಪ್ರದೇಶ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ವಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (http://kppp.gov.in) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಪಡೆದು ಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ವನ್ಯಜೀವಿ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ,

ಸಂ. ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ.ಚಾ.ನಗರ/74/2026–27

**BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, BNCC, Zone-2, 2nd Floor, BNCC (Old BBMP) Building, Opp. to Indira Canteen, J.C. Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru - 560006.
No: BNCC-Z2/EE/HBL/PR/01/2026-27 Date: 02-05-2026

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)**

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, BNCC, Zone-2, Bengaluru for the Works mentioned below from the registered Contractors of GBA - BNCC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.
**(Standard Tender Document - KW-1)**

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work / Category |
|---|---|
| 1 | Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in R.T Nagara Sub Division, Ward No. 61. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 7.50, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 18,750.00** |
| 2 | Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in Vishwanatha Nagenahalli Sub Division, Ward No. 62. **(CAT-II(A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6,250.00** |
| 3 | Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in Ganganagara Sub Division, Ward No. 63. **(CAT-II(A)) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6,250.00** |
| 4 | Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in Hebbala Sub Division, Ward No. 64. **(Others) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 12,500.00** |
| 5 | Establishment of Temporary Control Room for Monsoon Period in 2026 in Nagashettyhalli Sub Division, Ward No. 65. **(SC) - Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 6,250.00** |

**Calendar of Events:** **1)** Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 04-05-2026. 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **16-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Tender is **18-05-2026 after 11.00 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office. **Sd/- Executive Engineer**
**Hebbala Division, Zone-2, BNCC.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ,
**ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಸಂಘ(ರಿ),**
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ.
mail ID : dpdomandya@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ :ಡಿ.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಸ್/ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ/ಮಾನವಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಟೆಂಡರ್/68/2026–27 ದಿ:28.04.2026

**ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ**
**ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು E-Procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ**

2026–2027 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಆರೋಗ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಸಹಾಯಕರು–01, ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಪತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕರು–09, ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕರು–27, ಎಂ.ಐ.ಎಸ್.ಐ.ಟಿ ಸಹಾಯಕರು–01, ಅಡುಗೆ ತಯಾರಕರು (ಕುಕ್)–01, ಎಲ್.ಡಿ.ಸಿ (ಎನ್.ಯು.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ)–08, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು–18, ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿ–24 ಮತ್ತು ಮಲ್ಟಿ ಟಾಸ್ಕ್ ವರ್ಕರ್–02, ಆಯುಷ್ ಪಂಚಕರ್ಮ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಸ್ವಚ್ಚತಾ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ–05, ನೌಕರರನ್ನು ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು – 96 ನೌಕರರಿಗೆ ಒಟ್ಟು ರೂ.2,93,97,366/– (ಎರಡು ಕೋಟಿ ತೊಂಬತ್ತ ಮೂರು ಲಕ್ಷ ತೊಂಬತ್ತ ಏಳು ಸಾವಿರ ಮುನ್ನೂರ ಅರವತ್ತ ಆರು ರೂ) ಗಳ ಅಂದಾಜು ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ವೇತನವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು (ಇ.ಪಿ.ಎಫ್, ಇ.ಎಸ್.ಐ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಂತೆ), ಹೊರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ರ ನಿಯಮಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಕಾರ 2000 ನಿಯಮನುಸಾರ ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರಗಳು ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ. (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29.04.2026. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 2,93,97,366/–. (3) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. 7,35,000/–/. (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ (Web Portal) : 29.04.2026 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ. (5) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳ ಸಲ್ಲಿಕೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ : 29.05.2026 ಸಂಜೆ: 05.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆದ ನಂತರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಮಿತಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರ್ಣಯಿಸಿ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನೂ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಹಾಗೂ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಘ,
ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/081/2026–27

# Odisha Hosts Major Workshop On National Education Policy

**BHUBANESWAR**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Saturday inaugurated a two-day workshop on the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020 and launched the Shakti Shree mobile application at Lok Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar.

The workshop brought together education experts, vice-chancellors and faculty members from universities across Odisha to discuss reforms in higher education and effective implementation of NEP-2020. During the event, Pradhan said Odisha's educational institutions should become national models through innovation, autonomy and research.

He stated that universities should introduce "best practices" to solve local issues while contributing to the vision of a developed India. The Union Minister also stressed the importance of promoting the Odia language and Indian language-based learning under the new education policy.

Pradhan said the education system should help remove colonial thinking and increase respect for local languages and traditions. Referring to Jagannath culture, he said students should combine Odia identity with global responsibility and nationalism.

The minister further highlighted the need to use digital technology and modern learning methods to improve enrollment in higher education. He said Odisha's youth must receive global-level training, including foreign language education and updated courses, to compete internationally.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi also addressed the gathering and said the National Education Policy is transforming India's education system through

QUICK READ

## Fake mother-child photo sparks confusion

**Jabalpur**

Following the Jabalpur cruise tragedy that killed nine people, a viral photo showing a mother holding her child while drowning in Bargi Dam created strong reactions online. However, district officials confirmed the image is fake and may have been created using AI. Divers involved in the rescue said the incident of a mother holding her child was real, but not the circulated picture. Search teams, including army divers and disaster response forces, are continuing operations to find four missing persons. Police are also preparing to file an FIR over the accident.

## Thunderstorms may affect Bengal vote counting

**Kolkata**

The Met Office has predicted thunderstorms and rain across Kolkata and South Bengal till May 5. Heavy showers and strong winds are likely on Monday, the day of vote counting for the West Bengal Assembly polls at 77 centres. Since April 29, several districts have already witnessed storm activity. Temperatures have slightly reduced due to rainfall, but humid conditions are expected to continue during the day.

# MCF Raebareli rolls out first Vande Bharat trainset

### With this achievement, MCF joins the elite group of manufacturing units producing India's flagship semi-high-speed trains

**RAEBARELI**

The Modern Coach Factory (MCF) in Raebareli has rolled out its first 16-car Vande Bharat Chair Car trainset, marking another major step in India's railway modernisation programme. The new train has been dispatched for testing and field trials before entering regular passenger service.The Vande Bharat project began in 2018 with only two trainsets and is now approaching the milestone of 100 trainsets across the country. MCF has now joined the list of Vande Bharat manufacturers with this latest rollout equipped with an advanced Siemens propulsion system.

Officials said the train will undergo oscillation trials to test ride quality, safety standards and overall performance.

The trainset includes modern features aimed at improving passenger comfort, reliability and operational safety. The train offers comfortable seating, jerk-free travel, fully sealed gangways and automatic plug doors to reduce outside noise. It is also fitted with the indigenous "Kavach" Automatic Train Protection system for better safety during operations.Advanced fire detection and aerosol-based fire suppression systems have also been installed. Flood protection measures for underslung equipment have been added to improve performance during difficult weather conditions. The train's interior has been developed using vacuum infusion technology, which ensures a better finish and improved durability.

The train is also fully accessible for Divyangjan passengers with ramps, dedicated spaces and specialised facilities.Railway officials said the new Vande Bharat train reflects India's progress in building high-speed, safe and comfortable railway systems using indigenous technology. The latest addition strengthens Indian Railways' focus on innovation, passenger convenience and world-class manufacturing standards.

# RG attacks BJP over remarks against Geniben Thakor

**NEW DELHI**

The Congress leader criticised the ruling party after Gujarat BJP president Jagdish Vishwakarma allegedly made indecent comments during a public meeting in Palanpur.

Gandhi said the remarks exposed the reality behind the BJP's repeated claims of respecting women through its 'Nari Vandana' campaign. In a post on X, he accused the BJP of carrying a "Manuvadi" and anti-woman mindset that cannot tolerate women questioning authority.

He also reminded Prime Minister Narendra Modi about his earlier statement that women never forget insults against them. The controversy began after Vishwakarma told party workers that women in Gujarat would politically defeat Geniben Thakor and take away seats from her stronghold.

Congress leaders strongly objected to the remarks and claimed they insulted not only Thakor but women across the country.

The political row comes soon after the Lok Sabha failed to pass the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill on women's reservation.

The proposed law aimed to speed up implementation of the 33 percent reservation for women before the 2029 general elections. However, the bill failed after the government could not secure the required two-thirds majority in Parliament.

Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had opposed the bill, calling it politically motivated and unfair to southern states. They argued the proposal linked women's reservation with a future delimitation process that could change parliamentary representation between states.

**He accused BJP leaders of promoting anti-women politics after controversial remarks targeting Geniben Thakor**

The government received 298 votes in favour and 230 against, falling fifty-four votes short of approval. With the bill defeated, implementation of reserved seats for women is expected to face further delays. Congress leaders said the latest controversy involving Geniben Thakor would remain a major campaign issue in Gujarat and other states ahead of future elections during upcoming political rallies and public meetings nationwide

# Andaman Creates Record With Underwater National Flag

**SRI VIJAYA PURAM**

The Andaman and Nicobar administration created a new Guinness World Record on Saturday by unfurling the world's largest underwater national flag at Radhanagar beach on Swaraj Dweep, also known as Havelock Island. The massive Tricolour measured around 60 by 40 metres and was carefully placed beneath the sea during a highly coordinated operation involving several government agencies and trained scuba divers. Lieutenant Governor DK Joshi, Chief Secretary Chandra Bhushan Kumar and Director General of Police HS Dhaliwal attended the event along with senior officials from different departments. Personnel from the Andaman and Nicobar Police, Forest Department.

# Mamata Confident TMC Will Cross Two Hundred Seats

**KOLKATA**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday expressed confidence that the Trinamool Congress would return to power with more than 200 seats in the ongoing Assembly elections. Addressing counting agents through video conferencing, she dismissed exit poll predictions and called them attempts to influence the stock market. Banerjee claimed similar efforts were made during the 2021 Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. She also accused Central Armed Police Forces of targeting TMC workers during polling and assured party workers that those affected would be recognised and rewarded in the future.Her remarks came while repolling was underway in parts of South 24 Parganas district following complaints raised by BJP leaders. BJP's West Bengal co-incharge Amit Malviya alleged that voters were stopped from supporting BJP candidates at several .

# MS University Introduces Modi Tattva Sociology Study Module

**VADODARA**

The Maharaja Sayajirao University in Gujarat's Vadodara has added a new module called "Modi Tattva" to its Sociology syllabus for postgraduate students. The course, titled "Sociology of Patriotism," aims to study Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership style, public acceptance and the role of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in society through a scientific and sociological approach.According to Sociology Department head Dr Virendra Singh, the programme will analyse Modi's leadership using the theory of "charismatic leadership" explained by sociologist Max Weber. He said similar leadership qualities were seen in leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Singh stated that PM Modi's long political presence and strong public support make him an important subject for academic study.The course will also examine topics including media and digital nationalism, citizenship and dissent, globalisation, and identity politics. Singh said these subjects would help students understand why Modi remains widely accepted among people across the country.

He added that policies like demonetisation, the digital revolution, FASTag and the Jal Shakti Ministry reflected Modi's understanding of public needs and aspirations.

# Ajay Rai Hospitalised After Sudden Health Complication

**LUCKNOW**

Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee President Ajay Rai was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Lucknow after falling seriously ill on Friday evening. Doctors said his condition has improved after treatment and he remains under close observation in the Intensive Care Unit.

According to the medical bulletin issued by the hospital, the 56-year-old Congress leader was brought to the emergency department around 6.30 pm in an unconscious state. Doctors said he had reportedly suffered a seizure before being admitted.

Initial medical examination revealed that Rai had low sodium levels in his blood, a condition medically known as hyponatremia. Hospital authorities said doctors immediately began treatment to stabilise his condition.

The bulletin stated that his sodium levels have now been brought under control and his health is steadily improving. Rai is currently being treated under the supervision of Critical Care Specialist Dr Dilip and his medical team.

The Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee shared the hospital statement on social media and said the entire Congress family was praying for Rai's speedy recovery and good health. Meanwhile, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi also expressed concern over Rai's health condition. In a post on X, Gandhi said he was worried after hearing about the Uttar Pradesh Congress chief's illness and wished him a quick recovery.

He further said he hoped Ajay Rai would regain his health soon and continue serving the public with full energy and strength.

# Ancient Shiva Fishing Ritual Attracts Thousands Of Devotees During Chitra Pournami

**RAMESWARAM**

A centuries-old ritual connected to Lord Shiva's legendary fishing episode was performed at Mariyur village in Ramanathapuram district during Chitra Pournami celebrations, attracting a large number of devotees from across Tamil Nadu.

The ritual, called the "Net-throwing Patalam Thiruvilayadal," took place at the historic Arulmigu Pavalamulattulli Sametha Poovendiya Nath Temple, believed to be more than one thousand years old. The temple is associated with the Ramanathapuram Samasthana Devasthanam.

Temple authorities said the event is held every year as part of a long-standing tradition symbolising Lord Shiva's divine play and his union with Goddess Parvati. The story is one among the 64 Thiruvilayadal episodes mentioned in the Periya Purana written by Sekkizhar. According to temple legends, Goddess Parvati was born as the daughter of a fisherman leader and wished to marry a brave man. The fisherman chief announced that whoever killed a giant shark troubling fishermen would marry his daughter.

Lord Shiva then appeared in the form of a fisherman, entered the sea and killed the shark by casting a fishing net. Priests also said the ritual symbolises the removal of a curse placed on Nandi, who was transformed into a fish.

During the ceremony, idols of Shiva and Parvati were taken in a grand procession to Mariyur beach with traditional music. A Shivacharya dressed as Lord Shiva reenacted the fishing scene from a boat before thousands of devotees gathered on the shore and nearby boats.

# Patnaik bats for 'humane banking administration'

**BHUBANESWAR**

BJD chief and Leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik on Saturday wrote to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman over a shocking incident involving a tribal man and a rural bank in Odisha's Keonjhar district. Patnaik demanded strict accountability and compassionate banking services, especially in remote tribal areas.The incident took place on April 27 at the Malliposi branch of Odisha Gramya Bank. Jeetu Munda, a 50-year-old tribal resident, reportedly brought the skeletal remains of his deceased sister, Kalra Munda, to the bank after officials allegedly insisted on her "physical presence" to release Rs 20,000 from her account. Kalra Munda had died in January. According to reports, Jeetu had made several visits to the bank seeking help but failed to receive proper assistance or clear guidance from officials. In desperation, he exhumed his sister's remains and carried them to the branch to prove her death.In his letter, Patnaik strongly criticised the bank officials for allegedly hiding behind RBI guidelines instead of helping the family. He said rules should empower citizens, not humiliate them, and described the incident as inhuman and deeply disturbing.

The former Odisha Chief Minister said the case had shocked people across the state and attracted national and international attention. He urged Sitharaman to ensure immediate action against those responsible and introduce a more citizen-friendly approach in rural banking services.

ZILLA PANCHAYATH TUMKUR
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Tumkur-572101.
No: 03/2026-27 Dated: 22.04.2026
**Tender Notice**
On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender for Various Works Under Various Head of accounts of P.R.E Division, Tumkur have been published in e-portal, Registred and Eligible contractors may submit the bids within 14-05-2026 upto 16.00PM trough KPPP Portal website. For more details Contact Ph: 0816-2272620 or visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/
Indent No: RDPR/2026-27/SE3799, RDPR/2026-27/SE3800
**Sd/-** Executive Engineer, PRED Division, Tumkur
DIPR/TUM/37/KSMCA/2026-27

**Town Panchayat Office, Soraba-577429**
Shivamogga District, Karnataka State.
Ph.: 08184-272232. Web: www.sorabatown.mrc.gov.in
e-mail: itstaff_ulb_sorab@yahoo.com
No.: S.T.P.J.E./CR/Tender/05/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026
**Tender Notice (Through K.P.P. Portal of GoK)**
Tender is invited through K.P.P. Portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 from eligible contractors registered in PWD for implementation of Civil Works under Industry Fund of Soraba Town Panchayat for the present block as per Karnataka Standard Documents KW-3. Contractors who wish to participate in K.P.P. Portal Tender can obtain further information and details from http://kppp.karnataka. gov.in and participate.
**Sl. No.1. Indent No.:** DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 56087/CALL-2 **Approx. Amount (Rs. In lakhs):** 75.00 **Tender E.M.D.:** 126991.00 **Time Period**: 6 Months
*) Last date for obtaining information regarding Tender: 11.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM *) Last date for submission of Tender: 12.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM *) Date of opening Technical Bid: 14.05.2026 at 5.30 PM *) Date of opening Financial Bid: 15.05.2026 at 5.30 PM
**Sd/- President** Town Pachayath, Soraba.
**Sd/- Chief Officer** Town Pachayath, Soraba.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/157/04/158

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2,
1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.
No: DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/03/2026-27 Date: 02-05-2026
**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)**
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
1) **The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** invites bids from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table below through KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause-3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3) Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Work | Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs) Excluding GST | EMD Amount (in Rs.) | Cost of Bid Document | Contract Completion Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Storm Water Drain from Kannur-Chikkagubbi-Doddagubbi-Rampura Lake-Yelemale Chatty Lake and Culverts Approch Roads. | 8005.49 | Rs. 1,00,000/- through e-Payment under of the following i.e., Online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the Balance Rs. 79,05,490/- by Bank Guarantee / FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank | As per KPP Portal | 11 Months |

1) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **12-05-2026 at 15.00 Hours in Office of the Chief Engineer and Chief General Manager (Tech) BSWML, BBMP Building, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560052.**
2) Technical Documents along with necessary information / documents must be uploaded to the KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document **on or before 16.00 hours of 22-05-2026** and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be Opened through KPP Portal only on **25-05-2026 after 16.30 Hours at the stipulated Venue,** in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3) The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP Portal for the latest information related to the Tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** KPP Portal help desk Telephone Numbers are: **080-22371090 / 22373788.** The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP Portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4) Any corrigendum / addendum will be published in the KPP Portal only.
**Sd/-**
**Deputy General Manager-2**
**BSWML**
DIPR/CP/462/Adverto/2026-27

# NATO seeks clarity as US plans troop cut in Germany

The statement comes after US officials confirmed that around 5,000 troops will be withdrawn from Germany over the next 6-12 months

**PARIS**

NATO has said it is working closely with the United States to understand the details of Washington's decision to reduce its military troop presence in Germany, amid growing discussions on European security responsibilities.

NATO spokesperson Allison Hart said the alliance is in talks with the US to clarify the planned adjustment in force deployment. She added that the move highlights the need for Europe to increase its defence spending and take greater responsibility for shared security commitments.

The statement comes after US officials confirmed that around 5,000 troops will be withdrawn from Germany over the next six to twelve months. The decision marks a shift in American military posture in Europe.According to reports, some 35,000 US military personnel are currently stationed in Germany, making it the largest American military presence in Europe. The planned reduction is expected to bring troop levels closer to pre-2022 numbers, before the Russia-Ukraine war led to a build-up of US forces under the previous administration.US officials linked the decision to rising diplomatic tensions between Washington and European allies, particularly over differing views on the Iran conflict. A Pentagon official, speaking anonymously, said recent remarks from German leadership were considered "inappropriate and unhelpful," adding that the move reflects US frustration with allied responses.The Pentagon also confirmed that the withdrawal will be carried out gradually over several months and includes the removal of a brigade combat team and cancellation of planned deployments of additional military units.

The decision has raised concerns among European security analysts, who warn that it could signal a broader shift in US defence priorities and push European nations to increase military self-reliance.

NATO has stressed that while the US remains committed to the alliance, the situation underlines the importance of stronger European defence capabilities.

### GERMANY CALLS FOR STRONGER EUROPEAN DEFENCE AFTER US TROOP CUT

**BERLIN:** GERMANY HAS URGED EUROPEAN NATIONS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR OWN DEFENCE SYSTEMS AFTER THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED A REDUCTION OF ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN GERMANY.

THE PENTAGON CONFIRMED THAT ABOUT 5,000 AMERICAN TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN, REDUCING THE LONG-STANDING US DEPLOYMENT IN EUROPE'S LARGEST ECONOMY.GERMAN DEFENCE MINISTER BORIS PISTORIUS SAID THE DECISION WAS EXPECTED BUT STRESSED THAT EUROPE MUST TAKE GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS OWN SECURITY. HE SAID GERMANY IS ALREADY WORKING TO EXPAND ITS ARMED FORCES, SPEED UP DEFENCE PURCHASES, AND IMPROVE MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE.THE US CURRENTLY HAS AROUND 35,000 TO 40,000 TROOPS STATIONED IN GERMANY, INCLUDING KEY BASES SUCH AS RAMSTEIN AIR BASE AND LANDSTUHL HOSPITAL, WHICH HAVE SUPPORTED AMERICAN MILITARY OPERATIONS ABROAD FOR DECADES. THE LATEST MOVE INCLUDES THE WITHDRAWAL OF ONE BRIGADE AND CANCELLATION OF A PLANNED LONG-RANGE FIRES BATTALION DEPLOYMENT.OFFICIALS SAID THE REDUCTION COMES AMID RISING TENSIONS BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE OVER ISSUES SUCH AS THE IRAN CONFLICT AND TRADE TARIFFS. THE DECISION HAS ADDED PRESSURE ON NATO MEMBERS, WHO HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED TO INCREASE DEFENCE RESPONSIBILITIES BUT FACE CHALLENGES DUE TO LIMITED BUDGETS AND CAPABILITY GAPS.GERMANY PLANS TO INCREASE ITS ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL FROM ABOUT 185,000 TO 260,000. HOWEVER, EXPERTS SAY BUILDING FULL DEFENCE READINESS ACROSS EUROPE WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS.

THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN GERMANY DATES BACK TO WORLD WAR II AND REACHED ITS PEAK DURING THE COLD WAR. THE LATEST CHANGES MARK ANOTHER SHIFT IN TRANSATLANTIC DEFENCE RELATIONS AND RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE SECURITY BALANCE IN EUROPE.

## QUICK READ

### China's railway sets new record on May 1

**SHANGHAI**

China's railway network set a new record on May 1, carrying 24.8 million passengers in a single day during the Labour Day holiday, according to official data. The China State Railway Group said travel demand surged across the country. Another 19.7 million passengers are expected to travel on May 2. To manage the rush, several routes added extra trains. Zhengzhou line added 140 trains and Chengdu added 184 services. Officials said holiday travel remains strong, supported by growing tourism demand, even as China's economy faces pressure from weak consumer spending and a slow property market downturn nationwide during holiday period.

### Iran executes 2 men accused of spying for Israel

**TEHRAN**

Iran has executed two men accused of spying for Israel, state-linked media reported on Saturday. The judiciary said Yaghoub Karimpour and Nasser Bakarzadeh were found guilty of cooperating with Israel's intelligence agency Mossad. Karimpour was accused of passing sensitive information to a Mossad officer. Bakarzadeh was accused of collecting details on government and religious figures and important sites, including areas near the Natanz nuclear facility in Isfahan province. Both men were hanged after conviction, officials said. The case has added tension as Iran continues to face security concerns linked to espionage allegations involving foreign intelligence services.

### Mexico Guv Rocha steps down amid Sinaloa Cartel charges

**MEXICO CITY**

Ruben Rocha, governor of Mexico's Sinaloa state, has said he will temporarily step down from his position, according to reports. The decision comes after the United States Justice Department charged him and other officials with alleged involvement linked to the Sinaloa Cartel. The case marks a major increase in US actions against drug cartels and may raise tensions between the United States and Mexico. Rocha has not given further details about the allegations. Authorities in both countries are closely watching the political and legal developments in this case officials said on Saturday night reports said.

# MALI PROBES SOLDIERS AFTER DEADLY COORDINATED ATTACKS

**BAMAKO**

Authorities in Mali have launched an investigation into soldiers suspected of involvement in a series of coordinated attacks on military bases carried out by armed groups linked to al Qaeda and separatist rebels.

A judicial official said the probe is focusing on possible internal support for the attacks that took place across multiple locations last week. The list of suspects includes active-duty soldiers, a retired soldier, and a dismissed soldier who was later killed near a major army base in Kati, close to the capital Bamako.

The military prosecutor's office confirmed that arrests have already begun, while additional suspects and collaborators are being tracked. However, officials have not disclosed the total number of people detained so far.

The attacks, which began on April 25, targeted several army positions and created widespread instability across northern Mali. The violence resulted in the killing of the defence minister and forced Russian-backed forces to withdraw from the northern town of Kidal.

Security officials said the situation has further escalated tensions in the desert region, where militant groups are expanding their influence and increasing cross-border threats. Analysts warn that the armed groups are becoming more coordinated and bold in their operations.

One of the main groups involved, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), has urged civilians to rise against the government and has threatened to surround Bamako.Military authorities, led by Assimi Goïta, have vowed strong action against insurgents and promised to restore control. Officials say security operations will continue as investigations expand into possible internal support for the attacks.

# Fighting escalates in Ukraine's Kostiantynivka

**The city is part of a heavily fortified defence line known as the "fortress belt," where Ukrainian forces continue to resist repeated Russian attempts to advance**

**KYIV**

Russian forces are moving closer to the outskirts of Kostiantynivka, a key Ukrainian stronghold in the eastern Donetsk region, according to Ukraine's military leadership.

The city is part of a heavily fortified defence line known as the "fortress belt," where Ukrainian forces continue to resist repeated Russian attempts to advance. Ukrainian Army Chief Oleksandr Syrskyi said Russian troops are trying to gain ground using small infiltration groups and sabotage tactics.Military officials reported that fighting has intensified over the past month, with dozens of attacks recorded in the area. Ukrainian forces say they are actively countering these attempts and maintaining defensive positions around the city.A battlefield monitoring group, DeepState, indicated that Russian troops are now positioned very close to the southern outskirts of Kostiantynivka, with some nearby zones still under disputed control.Russian defence authorities claimed earlier that they had taken control of nearby villages, while continuing operations from multiple directions around the city. However, Ukraine says its forces are still holding key positions and preventing a full breakthrough.The ongoing conflict is part of Russia's broader push in eastern Ukraine, where small territorial gains have come after long and intense battles. Large urban centres remain difficult for Russian forces to fully capture, according to military reports.Kostiantynivka remains strategically important as both sides continue heavy fighting in the Donetsk region, with no immediate sign of a slowdown in clashes or ground movements.

## Kenya floods kill 10 as dam overflow risk grows

**NAIROBI**

At least 10 people have died in Kenya after heavy rains triggered widespread flooding and landslides across several regions, according to police reports. Authorities have also warned that rising river levels and overflowing dams could pose serious danger to communities living downstream.

Most of the deaths, seven in total, were reported in eastern Kenya. Officials said the extreme rainfall has caused significant damage to infrastructure, including the collapse of two bridges in Kwale county on the coast and Kitui county in eastern Kenya. Landslides were also reported in parts of Elgeyo Marakwet in the Rift Valley region.The heavy rains, which fall during Kenya's normal March to May wet season, have become more intense this year. Authorities said the saturated soil has increased the risk of flooding and landslides, making several areas highly vulnerable. Transport has been severely affected after a landslide blocked the Iten–Kabarnet road near Kolol. The Kenya National Highways Authority said repair work is underway and traffic has been diverted to alternative routes.

# US-Philippine forces display NMESIS system

**BATANES**

US and Philippine forces on Saturday displayed the NMESIS anti ship missile system in Batanes province near Taiwan during annual war games. The drills come as tensions remain high over Taiwan, which China claims as its territory. Batanes is the northernmost Philippine province, close to the Luzon Strait and only about one hundred miles from Taiwan. The NMESIS system was flown in by a US C one thirty aircraft and placed in Basco town for training use. It can hit ships from land using missiles with a range of about one hundred fifteen miles and is designed for remote operation. U S Staff Sergeant Darren Gibbs said the system allows troops to train in new environments and operate without a driver inside the vehicle.

Officials said the weapon is not used in live firing and will be withdrawn after the exercises finish. The exercise named Balikatan involves more than seventeen thousand troops from the Philippines and United States across several locations. China has criticized the presence of American weapons in the Philippines saying it increases regional tension and military rivalry. Security analysts say the missile system could act as a deterrent in the Luzon Strait area near Taiwan. Philippine officials also said contingency plans exist to evacuate citizens from Taiwan if conflict breaks out.

The deployment is part of closer military cooperation between Washington and Manila amid growing security concerns in the region. It also reflects efforts to test how quickly advanced weapons can be moved to remote islands in case of emergency. Local officials in Batanes said the presence of troops brought attention to the strategic importance of their quiet island province. The Luzon Strait, where Batanes is located, is seen as a key waterway between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Military observers say exercises like this signal readiness and aim to strengthen alliances in the Indo Pacific region.

The NMESIS system will be removed from Batanes once the war games conclude as planned.

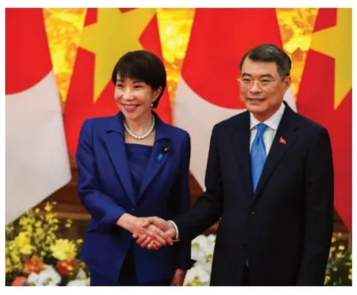
## *Japan-Vietnam seek deeper energy, minerals ties*

**HANOI**

Japan and Vietnam have agreed to deepen cooperation in energy minerals and new technology during talks in Hanoi as global risks rise Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi met Vietnamese leaders on Saturday

The leaders focused on economic security stable energy supply and stronger supply chains across the region.

They discussed cooperation in artificial intelligence semiconductors space technology and critical minerals to reduce dependence on limited global suppliers and improve resilience in trade networks.



Japan also promised support for Vietnam's energy needs including helping secure crude oil supplies for key refineries through regional partnerships as demand grows in Asia. The talks come as Vietnam seeks stable fuel sources amid rising prices and global uncertainty that affects its fast growing economy.Japan is also working to reduce reliance on China for rare earth minerals while Vietnam aims to develop its mining and processing capacity with foreign help.

Officials said both countries see strong potential for growth in trade investment and technology exchange over the next few years.

Japan's regional strategy also supports a free and open Indo Pacific aimed at improving stability and economic growth across Asia.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Vinod N, son of Nagaraju, who is the son of Shivamma and our client, is the owner of the following property situated within the jurisdiction of Hosa Halli Village, Yadakola Panchayati, Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District. As per Panchayat records, Form No. 9 and 11A, Property Unique Number: **152200412071000288,** Property No. **274,** with the following measurements: East-West: 58 feet, North-South: 27 feet **Property Boundaries:** East: Road, West : House of Galli Nagappa and Chinnappa, North: Road, South: House of Shambulingappa

For the purpose of constructing a house on this property, a loan is being obtained from **Karur Vysya Bank Limited, Saraswathipuram Branch, Mysuru.**

If anyone has any claim, objection, or dispute regarding this property, they are requested to contact the below-mentioned numbers within **7 days** from the date of this publication.

**Pragathi Law Associates**
S. Arun Kumar & Rashmi Arun Kumar
#26/B, First Floor
Shiva Complex, New Kantharaja Urs Road
K.G. Koppalu, Mysuru - 570023
Mobile: 9845116311

**Indresh (Manager)**
Karur Vysya Bank Limited
Saraswathipuram Branch, Mysuru
Mobile: 9620175109

**IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA**
**CMis.No. 183/2026**

**Petitioner: Smt.Hemavathi** W/o Late Ramanna Aged about 57 years, R/at Chikkanahalli Village, Dodda belavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, and others

V/s

**Respondent Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapura.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of husband of petitioner No.1 and father of petitioner No.2 & 3 by name LATE RAMANNA S/O LATE RANGAPPA who died on 04.03.2003 at Chikkanahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 10.06.2026 at 11:00 AM. In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 30th day of April 2026

**By order of the court**
**Chief Ministeral Officer Prl. Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura**

Advocate : **Anjanegowda. V.,** No.1, 1st Floor, Government Employees Association Building, Next PLD Bank, Near Taluk Office Circle, Doddaballapur Town.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **RUQSAAR**, W/o. Ajaz Ahmed, Resident of No. 432, 1st Floor, G Block, Beedi Workers Colony, Kengeri, Bengaluru -560060, Karnataka, have changed my name to **RUKSAR**, vide affidavit dated: 30.04.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **LINAZ MAHABUB**, D/o. Mahabub Ali Shaukat, Resident of No.6/7, 1st Cross, 1st Main, S K Garden, Benson Town, Bengaluru-560046, Karnataka, have changed my name to **LINAZ MAHABOOB**, vide affidavit dated: 02.05.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **KHALEELUR RAHMAN**, Resident of No.519, Behind High School, Varthur, Bengaluru-560087, Karnataka, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED KHALEEL UR RAHMAN**, vide affidavit dated: 02.05.2026 before notary R. BASAVARAJA, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, YESHWANTH K S/o KUMARA D, R/o Arasapura, Holavanahalli Hobali Koratagere Taluk, Agrahara, Tumkur, Karnataka-572121, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YASHWANTH.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **ASHA**, W/o Ravi A T aged about 42 years, Residing at Attihalli (V&P), Sathanoor Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bengaluru south district-562126, have changed my name from Asha to **ASHA T D**, vide affidavit dated: 02.05.2026 before notary KANTHARAJU S, Ramanagara.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, MANU K L W/o HARISH SRINIVAS, R/o 87, Karanji, Venkata Lingaiah Layout, Siddartha Nagara, Mysore, Karnataka-570011, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANASA HARISH.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, MARY SUNITHA PRAKASH W/o JERAS JOHN VELIYATH, aged about 43 years, residing at # C-208, Fortuna Blue Wings, Talacauvery Layout, Virabhadra Nagar, Basavanagar, Doddanekkundi, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560037, have changed my name from MARY SUNITHA PRAKASH to MARY SUNITHA for all practical / documentation purposes, vide affidavit dated 02-05-2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary Ravi Kumar. V., Bengaluru, Karnataka.

CH CLASSIFED
To Place Classifed ad Contact : 080-41209042

## QUICK READ

### Rohit Jain appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

**New Delhi**

The Government has appointed Rohit Jain as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India for a three-year term, according to official sources. He will replace T Rabi Sankar, whose extended tenure concluded recently. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet cleared his appointment effective from May 3 or later upon joining. Jain is currently serving as Executive Director at the RBI. The Reserve Bank of India has four deputy governors, with two from internal cadre, one commercial banker, and one economist heading monetary policy. The other deputy governors include Swaminathan J, Poonam Gupta and S C Murmu. Sankar had earlier received extensions in 2024 and 2025 respectively now.

### Air India cuts flights as fuel surge hits viability

**New Delhi**

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson has warned of significant flight reductions as soaring jet fuel prices and airspace constraints hit the airline's viability. The carrier has already cut some services in April and May and plans further reductions through June and July. A sharp rise in aviation turbine fuel costs, combined with longer routes due to West Asia airspace restrictions, has made several domestic and international flights unprofitable. Reports suggest up to 100 flights could be affected, including routes to Europe, North America, and Australia. With fuel accounting for a large share of operating costs, Air India said the cuts are necessary amid ongoing global disruptions.

### Central Bank warns of debt vulnerabilities worldwide

**New Delhi**

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra said India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain strong despite global uncertainties, supported by robust consumption and sustained public investment. Speaking at an international conference in Amsterdam, he cautioned that rising public debt in major economies, driven by continued fiscal expansion and higher defence spending, poses risks to global financial stability. He also warned that stretched valuations, particularly in technology assets, could threaten markets. Disruptions in supply chains and elevated energy prices have already impacted economic activity and may trigger inflationary pressures if prolonged.

# Central banks trim dollar exposure, boost gold bets

Bank notes that this shift is part of a broader "de-dollarisation" trend, where countries are diversifying reserve assets to reduce reliance on dollar-based financial systems

**NEW DELHI**

Global central banks are reducing their exposure to the US dollar and increasing gold reserves amid rising geopolitical tensions, according to a Deutsche Bank analysis.

The bank notes that this shift is part of a broader "de-dollarisation" trend, where countries are diversifying reserve assets to reduce reliance on dollar-based financial systems. Central banks, particularly in emerging markets, are steadily increasing gold allocations as a hedge against economic uncertainty, sanctions risk, and global instability.

According to the analysis, gold's share in global central bank reserves has already risen significantly over the past two decades, while the US dollar's dominance has gradually declined. The trend has accelerated in recent years as geopolitical conflicts and financial fragmentation have increased demand for neutral reserve assets.Deutsche Bank highlights that central banks have been among the largest buyers of gold since the 2008 financial crisis, accumulating hundreds of millions of ounces. This sustained demand has helped support gold prices and is expected to continue influencing global markets. The report also points out that emerging economies are leading this shift, with several countries expanding gold reserves alongside diversification into other currencies. Analysts say this strategy reflects concerns over currency volatility, debt levels, and the weaponisation of financial systems.Market observers note that the transition is not only financial but also geopolitical, as countries reassess long-term reserve strategies in a more multipolar world. Gold is increasingly seen as a "neutral asset" without counterparty risk.Recent projections suggest that if current trends continue, central banks could further increase gold's share in reserves over the coming decade, reinforcing its role as a key pillar of global monetary stability amid ongoing uncertainty.

**Recap**

- Dollar exposure being reduced
- Gold reserves steadily increasing
- Geopolitical tensions driving shift
- Emerging markets leading trend
- Gold seen as safe asset

# India eases HVDC localisation rules

**NEW DELHI**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
सत्यमेव जयते

**Govt eases HVDC substation norms under Make in India, targeting 60% local content by 2035 to boost domestic manufacturing and energy infra growth.**

The Ministry of Power has eased localisation norms for high voltage direct current HVDC substation projects under the Make in India initiative aiming to significantly increase domestic manufacturing in the power transmission sector, according to official sources.

The revised framework is designed to attract global manufacturers while encouraging joint ventures and technology transfers with Indian companies to build local capacity in critical grid infrastructure components

Authorities said the policy sets an ambitious target of achieving sixty percent local content in HVDC substation equipment by 2035 as part of long term energy security and self-reliance goals The move is expected to reduce import dependence on high end transmission systems particularly those used in large scale renewable energy integration projects

Officials added that easing procurement and localisation requirements will help speed up project execution while maintaining quality and global competitiveness of Indian suppliers The policy also encourages domestic research and development in advanced power electronics and grid automation technologies

Industry stakeholders have welcomed the decision saying it will create new investment opportunities and strengthen India's position in the global power infrastructure supply chain The government believes that the updated norms will accelerate the expansion of modern transmission networks needed for integrating renewable energy and improving grid reliability across the country

The initiative aligns with India's broader energy transition strategy focusing on clean energy expansion and infrastructure modernisation It is also expected to generate employment and boost domestic manufacturing ecosystems across the electrical equipment sector Analysts said smoother norms may

attract foreign investment and improve supply chains efficiency

*Govt prioritises 12.22 lakh crore capex plan despite fiscal stress, focusing on infrastructure amid global uncertainties*

# GOVT TO SUSTAIN CAPEX DESPITE FISCAL STRESS

**NEW DELHI**

The government has said it will continue its planned capital expenditure of 12.22 lakh crore in the current fiscal year despite emerging fiscal pressures due to global uncertainties, including the ongoing West Asia conflict.Expenditure Secretary V Vualnam stated that maintaining capital expenditure remains a top priority to sustain economic growth momentum, even as fiscal challenges intensify. He cautioned that the coming quarters and the next financial year could see multiple "stress points," including potential impacts on tax revenue following recent fuel duty adjustments.He added that while fiscal stress is a reality, the government is committed to ensuring that capital expenditure is maintained at budgeted levels. The focus areas for FY27 capex include highways, railways, ports, shipping, and urban development, aimed at strengthening infrastructure and long-term growth.The official noted that global uncertainties, particularly rising crude oil prices due to geopolitical tensions, have created a difficult environment for India as a major importer of petroleum products. Despite this, he said India's fiscal discipline has placed the economy in a relatively strong position.

The FY27 fiscal deficit target has been set at 4.3% of GDP, though revisions may take it closer to 4.5%. Revenue pressures have increased due to excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel aimed at controlling retail fuel prices.

He also highlighted risks related to energy imports, noting that India depends heavily on imported LPG, much of which passes through vulnerable shipping routes.The government has also imposed export duties on diesel and aviation turbine fuel to ensure domestic supply stability. Officials said these measures are being reviewed periodically in response to changing global conditions.

## Human capital monetisation model to tackle job crisis

**NEW DELHI**

Amid growing concerns over a widening global employment gap, a new framework called the Human Capital Monetisation Economic System (HRMES) has been proposed as a potential solution to an emerging global jobs crisis, according to a report.

# Spirit Airlines shuts down after failed rescue talks

**NEW DELHI**

Spirit Airlines on Saturday announced it is shutting down operations and initiating an orderly wind-down after failing to secure a financial lifeline from lenders and the US government.

The airline cancelled all scheduled flights with immediate effect and suspended customer support services. Passengers have been advised not to head to airports, as the company's website now provides detailed guidance on refunds and next steps.

The decision comes after negotiations over a potential rescue package collapsed, leaving the airline without the funds needed to sustain operations. Despite attempts to arrange emergency financing,

discussions with creditors and government authorities failed to produce an agreement, effectively sealing the airline's fate.

Spirit Airlines cited mounting cost pressures, particularly rising fuel prices, as a major factor behind its deteriorating financial condition. The company noted that recent increases in oil prices, coupled with broader operational challenges, significantly weakened its outlook and ability to continue as a going concern.

Refunds for eligible bookings made through credit or debit cards are expected to be processed automatically. Customers with other types of claims will have to seek resolution through ongoing bankruptcy proceedings as part of the wind-down process.

The airline said it will continue coordinating with vendors, partners, and other stakeholders during this period and will provide updates through the legal process as required.The shutdown marks the end of an airline that operated for more than three decades and became a prominent player in the US ultra-low-cost aviation segment, known for its budget fares and no-frills service model.

# Two-wheeler sales boost India's FY26 auto recovery

**NEW DELHI**

India's automobile sector witnessed a demand-led yet uneven recovery in FY26, with two-wheelers emerging as the primary growth driver, according to a report by Deloitte India. Urban demand and premiumisation trends supported overall growth, while rural markets continued to face pressure.

Two-wheeler wholesale volumes rose 10.7% year-on-year, while retail sales recorded a stronger increase of 13.4%. The segment also saw a notable shift toward premium motorcycles, which surged 40.7%, alongside an 18.5% rise in scooter demand.

Passenger vehicles maintained their premiumisation trajectory, with mid-size entry segments gaining traction as traditional entry-level categories weakened. Meanwhile, commercial vehicles entered a goods-led upcycle, growing around 12.6%, supported by infrastructure expansion and replacement demand.

Electric vehicle adoption continued to rise but remained uneven across regions. Electric two-wheelers grew 21.8 per cent, though overall penetration increased modestly to 6.5% due to pricing challenges and limited charging infrastructure.

Regionally, Kerala led EV penetration at 14.1%, while Karnataka and Odisha showed steady progress. Maharashtra, however, saw its share decline despite higher volumes, reflecting a rebound in internal combustion engine demand.

The report also noted that pricing adjustments and GST rationalisation in the latter half of FY26 improved affordability in the sub-350cc motorcycle segment, narrowing the gap with commuter bikes.

Overall, urban markets drove growth through premium offerings and feature upgrades, while policy support and trade developments are expected to shape the sector's medium-term outlook.

## Fuel prices stable amid tensions

**NEW DELHI:** Petrol and diesel prices across India remained unchanged on May 2, offering temporary relief to consumers despite global oil market volatility. Tensions in the Middle East have kept crude prices unstable, raising concerns about future revisions. OMCs continue daily price reviews but are absorbing cost pressures for now.

# OBESITAS 2026 highlights India's obesity challenge

**NEW DELHI**

Over 500 doctors and 150 nutritionists gathered at OBESITAS 2026, a major medical conference organised by the IJCP Group in association with the South Asian Obesity Forum, to address India's rising obesity burden.

The event focused on obesity as a chronic, complex disease linked to diabetes, cardiovascular disorders, fatty liver disease, and hormonal imbalances. Experts stressed the need for early diagnosis, structured treatment, and multidisciplinary care to manage the growing public health crisis.The conference, themed "Obesity Awareness, Advocacy, Action," featured discussions on advanced therapies, including GLP-1 receptor agonists, dual incretin treatments, and medical nutrition therapy. Specialists also examined the increasing role of technology in obesity management and personalised treatment approaches.

Doctors noted that India is witnessing a sharp rise in obesity across both urban and rural populations, driven by sedentary lifestyles, dietary changes, and rising consumption of ultra-processed foods. This has led to a parallel increase in non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.A key highlight of the event was the national launch of the Thyroid Federation of India, aimed at improving awareness and coordinated care for metabolic disorders that often overlap with obesity.

Organisers said OBESITAS 2026 aimed to bridge gaps in clinical practice by bringing together endocrinologists, cardiologists, and nutrition experts on a single platform.

Health experts emphasised that obesity should no longer be seen as a lifestyle issue but as a serious medical condition requiring structured intervention and policy-level attention.

The conference also called for stronger public health strategies and greater awareness to tackle India's growing metabolic health crisis.

**STRATEGIC BOOST**

# *'Great Nicobar Project to boost India's maritime strategy'*

**NEW DELHI**

The proposed Great Nicobar Project is being seen as a major step in strengthening India's maritime strategy, offering strategic depth, economic leverage, and enhanced influence in the Indian Ocean region, according to a new analysis.The report notes that while the island project is ambitious and faces significant execution and environmental risks, its core rationale lies in leveraging geography for long-term national advantage. It

argues that India's location along key global shipping routes remains underutilised despite its vast coastline and strategic position.The project aims to develop Great Nicobar into a major transshipment and logistics hub, reducing India's dependence on foreign ports such as Singapore, Colombo, and Port Klang. Currently, a large share of India's cargo—estimated at around three million TEUs annually—is handled through these external hubs, resulting in substantial revenue loss.The analysis estimates that India loses around $200–220 million annually in port revenues due to this dependency. A fully operational international container transshipment terminal at Great Nicobar could help retain freight earnings, reduce shipping time for exporters, and improve trade competitiveness. Projected revenues from the project could reach approximately $3.16 billion annually by 2040, against an estimated investment of $7.9–8.53 billion. However, experts caution that employment projections of around 50,000 jobs remain aspirational and depend on successful implementation.The report also highlights that the initiative aligns with broader government programmes such as Maritime India Vision 2030 and Sagarmala, which focus on port-led development and logistics expansion.

# Small-cap stocks surge despite weak macro signals

**NEW DELHI**

Indian equity markets delivered strong returns in April, with small-cap and micro-cap segments outperforming larger indices despite a weak macroeconomic backdrop marked by geopolitical tensions and rising crude oil prices, according to a report by OmniScience Capital.

The report noted that the Nifty Smallcap 250 index delivered 13.4% returns, while the Nifty Microcap 250 index surged 16.2%. Smaller companies within the firm's "Bharat Vectors" framework also posted strong gains, indicating broad-based participation in lower market-cap segments.

A group of select 250 stocks with an average market capitalisation of around 1,500 crore delivered 25.2% returns, while another set of 250 stocks with 3,000 crore average market cap returned 23.2% during the month.

# Mandhana shows same leadership spark as Dhoni

## Dinesh Karthik praised Smriti Mandhana's "calm authority," comparing her self-assured leadership style to that of legendary captain MS Dhoni

**NEW DELHI**

Indian cricket star Dinesh Karthik has sparked excitement by comparing Smriti Mandhana's captaincy style to that of the legendary MS Dhoni. Following a sensational season for Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), Karthik praised Mandhana for the "calm authority" and sense of freedom she brings to her team, traits famously linked to India's World Cup-winning former captain.

In a video released by the franchise, Karthik described Mandhana as a leader who is deeply self-assured and intuitive.

He noted that she has a rare ability to read match situations perfectly while empowering her teammates to play their natural game. According to Karthik, Mandhana strikes a perfect balance, she gives players the space to express themselves but remains a rock-solid presence whenever they are in doubt. "The last person I heard players say this about was MS Dhoni," Karthik remarked.

The results speak for themselves. Under Mandhana's guidance, the RCB women dominated the 2026 season, clinching their second title by defeating Delhi Capitals in a record-breaking final. Mandhana didn't just lead, she dominated with the bat, topping the scoring charts and guiding her team through the highest successful run chase in league history.

This success follows her stellar performance as vice-captain during India's historic World Cup win last year.

Whether leading her country or her club, Mandhana is proving that her quiet confidence is a championship-winning formula. As her trophy cabinet grows, the comparisons to "Captain Cool" seem more fitting than ever.

## India names new faces for historic test

**MUMBAI**

India has announced an exciting squad for the historic one-off Women's Test against England at Lord's, featuring maiden call-ups for Nandni Sharma and N. Sree Charani. This July match marks a milestone, as it will be the first-ever women's Test played at the legendary "Home of Cricket."

Nandni Sharma earned her spot after a sensational WPL season with the Delhi Capitals, where she became the first Indian pacer to take a hat-trick. Joining her is uncapped left-arm spinner N. Sree Charani, who replaces Vaishnavi Sharma in the spin attack. Wicket-keeper-batter Yastika Bhatia and pacer Renuka Singh Thakur also return to the squad after recovering from injuries, strengthening the team ahead of the big game.

## KKR boosted as Pathirana joins the squad

**HYDERABAD**

The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have received a massive boost as Sri Lankan pace sensation Matheesha Pathirana has finally joined the team. KKR bowling coach Tim Southee confirmed that the speedster is back in action and training hard ahead of their crucial clash in their next match.

Pathirana, who was bought for a staggering ₹18 crore, has sat out the entire season so far due to a calf strain suffered during the T20 World Cup.

His return couldn't come at a better time for KKR, who are currently struggling in eighth place.

"He's been bowling well at training," Southee said, though he noted that the final playing XI would depend on the pitch conditions in Hyderabad.

The coach also opened up about why this IPL season has been a nightmare for bowlers. With 36 totals over 200 already recorded this year, Southee blamed "road-like" batting tracks and the Impact Player rule.

He explained that teams no longer fear losing wickets early because they have extra batting depth, allowing youngsters like Abhishek Sharma and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi to attack relentlessly from the first ball.

Currently, KKR faces a steep uphill battle with only two wins in eight games. They now go up against an SRH side that is on a five-match winning streak and sitting comfortably in third place.

Whether Pathirana's "slingshot" pace can stop the high-scoring trend remains to be seen, but KKR fans will be hoping their big-money signing can turn their season around.

# MARK WOOD eyes careful return to cricket

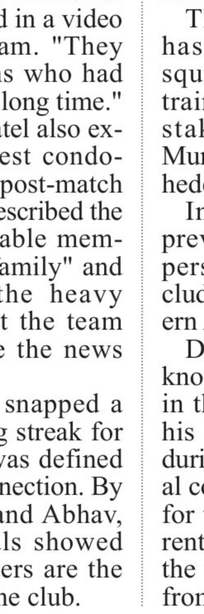
**England speedster Mark Wood is targeting a cautious summer return, prioritizing long-term fitness over a rushed comeback to avoid a career-ending recurrence of his knee injury.**

**NEW DELHI**

England's speed merchant Mark Wood has revealed he is targeting a cautious comeback this summer following a grueling battle with a recurring knee injury. The 36-year-old fast bowler, famous for his terrifying pace, admitted that he is approaching this latest recovery with extreme care, knowing his professional career could be on the line.

Wood's recent journey has been a heartbreak for fans. After undergoing surgery in 2025 and spending over a year on the sidelines, he returned for the Ashes in Perth last November.

However, his comeback lasted only eleven overs before his knee failed again. Now, the Durham star is refusing to rush. "I've got maybe one more chance at doing this right," Wood told the BBC, emphasizing that another setback could force him into permanent retirement.



The timing is difficult for England. With legendary bowlers like James Anderson and Stuart Broad no longer leading the attack, the national team is desperate for experience. With other key bowlers like Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse facing their own hurdles, England may have to rely on fresh faces for the upcoming series against New Zealand in June.

Despite the "mega frustrating" journey, Wood remains focused on his goal of adding to his 146 international appearances.

He was bowling at his peak before the injury struck and is determined to reach those speeds once more. For Wood, the priority is no longer just playing, but ensuring he is healthy enough to stay on the pitch for good.

## Pujara claims fearless batting has transformed IPL

**NEW DELHI**

Cricket legends Cheteshwar Pujara and Sanjay Bangar believe the 2026 IPL season has permanently changed the art of T20 batting. According to the veterans, the current tournament is the most explosive in history, driven by a new generation of players who prioritize aggressive scoring over traditional steady play.

The statistics from the first 35 matches are staggering. Teams are scoring at a record overall rate of nearly ten runs per over, with Powerplay scoring hitting an all-time high. Pujara noted that the "Impact Player" rule has given teams the confidence to attack without fear, leading to 29 totals over 200 so far. Even more impressive is how easily these massive targets are being chased down, with ten successful 200-plus chases already recorded.

Young stars like 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi and the explosive Abhishek Sharma are leading this charge. Suryavanshi, in particular, has stunned fans by hitting 15-ball half-centuries on three separate occasions. Bangar emphasized that in this high-speed era, a player's strike rate has become the ultimate "currency," making traditional batting averages almost irrelevant.

Both experts also credited the groundskeepers across India for preparing excellent batting surfaces that allow for such high-octane entertainment.

"It's not about building an innings anymore," Pujara explained. "It's about scoring as many runs in the fewest balls possible."

As the tournament passes its midpoint, this fearless philosophy shows no signs of slowing down, promising even more fireworks for fans.

## Mitchell Starc shines in successful IPL return

**NEW DELHI**

Australian pace legend Mitchell Starc made a triumphant return to the cricket pitch, helping the Delhi Capitals secure a historic seven-wicket win over the Rajasthan Royals. After missing the first half of the season due to shoulder and elbow injuries, Starc's comeback provided the spark Delhi needed to snap their recent losing streak.

The left-arm bowler admitted to feeling some rust after nearly three months away from competitive action. Having not bowled to a batter since February, Starc noted that the lightning-fast pace of T20 cricket was a jump from the Test matches he is used to. "It's nice to get some miles on the legs," Starc said, expressing relief at finally being back in the thick of the action.

Starc proved his worth immediately by taking crucial wickets in the final overs, restricting Rajasthan to 225 runs.

His experience helped stall their momentum just as they looked to post an unreachable score.

Delhi's batters then took over, completing the highest successful run-chase in the team's history with an over to spare. Starc described the batting performance as a "near-perfect chase," praising his teammates for their clinical execution.

With this victory, the Delhi Capitals have found fresh energy as the tournament enters its most critical phase. For Starc, the focus is now on staying healthy and building momentum.

By taking things one game at a time, he hopes to lead Delhi's bowling attack toward a successful playoff run in this new month of competition.

## Nissanka find his groove in record chase

**NEW DELHI**

Former Indian cricketer Mohammad Kaif believes opener Pathum Nissanka has finally found his rhythm after a match-winning performance against the Rajasthan Royals. Following a brief stint on the sidelines due to poor form, the Sri Lankan star returned to the lineup, smashing a vital 62 runs to help the Delhi Capitals hunt down a massive target of 226.

Kaif noted that this innings was a major turning point for Nissanka, who had struggled to convert his early starts into big scores earlier in the season. Facing one of the league's most feared bowling attacks, Nissanka showed no fear as he took on the likes of Jofra Archer and Nandre Burger. His aggressive approach during the powerplay ensured that Delhi never felt the pressure of the daunting run rate, setting a record-breaking pace from the first ball.

The commentator also praised Delhi's smart tactics, particularly the decision to send in Nitish Rana during the middle overs. Rana, known for his dominance against spin, lived up to his reputation by attacking Ravindra Jadeja and Ravi Bishnoi immediately. "His quickfire 33 shifted the momentum," Kaif said, highlighting how Rana's confidence from previous games helped Delhi control the game's most difficult phase.

Supported by a solid 75 from captain KL Rahul and a cool finish from Tristan Stubbs, Delhi completed their highest-ever successful run-chase with five balls to spare. For Kaif, this victory wasn't just about the points, it was about the individual confidence gained by players like Nissanka, who are now peaking at just the right time.

## Emotional victory for the DC family heartbeat

**NEW DELHI**

The Delhi Capitals secured an emotional seven-wicket victory over the Rajasthan Royals in the last match they played, but the win was about much more than cricket. In a touching gesture, the team dedicated their success to two young fans, Yagya and Abhav Bhatia, who tragically lost their lives in a recent accident.

The cousins, aged 20 and 14, were killed in a hit-and-run incident on April 27. The tragedy occurred as they were traveling home after cheering for Delhi at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Both were well-known members of the 'DC Toli' fan group and were familiar faces to the franchise.

Following the match in Jaipur, head coach Hemang Badani delivered a heartfelt speech in the dressing room. He told the players that the victory belonged to the two boys, noting that the team's performance had surely done them proud. "This win is for them," Badani said in a video shared by the team. "They were massive fans who had been with us for a long time."

Captain Axar Patel also expressed his deepest condolences during the post-match presentation. He described the boys as irreplaceable members of the "DC family" and acknowledged the heavy emotional weight the team had carried since the news broke.

While the win snapped a three-match losing streak for Delhi, the night was defined by this human connection. By honoring Yagya and Abhav, the Delhi Capitals showed that their supporters are the true heartbeat of the club.

## Josh Inglis joins Lucknow for season rescue

**NEW DELHI**

The Lucknow Super Giants have received a much-needed boost with the arrival of Australian star Josh Inglis for the remainder of IPL 2026.

The wicketkeeper-batter has officially joined the squad in India and begun training ahead of the high-stakes clash against the Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium.

Inglis' participation was previously uncertain due to personal commitments, including his wedding in Western Australia last month.

Despite these delays, Lucknow showed immense faith in the 31-year-old, securing his services for Rs 8.6 crore during the auction. His arrival comes at a critical moment for the franchise, which currently sits near the bottom of the table with only two wins from eight matches.

# Mumbai management must answer for team struggles

**NEW DELHI**

Former New Zealand cricketer Simon Doull has called for major accountability at the top of the Mumbai Indians organization following their latest defeat. The five-time champions suffered a stinging six-wicket loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad, even after posting a massive 243 runs. The defeat leaves Mumbai near the bottom of the table with a dismal record of only two wins from eight games.

Doull argues that the franchise's problems run deeper than poor bowling or batting. He pointed specifically to the controversial leadership change that saw Hardik Pandya replace Rohit Sharma as captain. Comparing the team to a pride of lions, Doull suggested that Pandya, once a "cub" in the squad, returned to fight the "king" for control, a move that has disrupted the team's chemistry.

The dressing room, according to Doull, is now a difficult environment "full of alphas." With four senior players who have captained their respective national teams, Doull believes authority has been weakened. He noted that when results fail, players naturally begin to wonder if they could do a better job than the person in charge.

This is not a one-year slump, Mumbai has struggled for three seasons, including finishing last in 2024. Doull insists that the owners and managers must take responsibility for these structural declines.

## Rajasthan Royals blame bowling for tough defeat

**JAIPUR**

Rajasthan Royals batting coach Vikram Rathour admitted that a failure to execute bowling plans was the primary reason for their seven-wicket loss to the Delhi Capitals. Despite posting a massive total of 225 runs, the Royals' defense crumbled under a record-breaking chase by the visitors at the Jaipur stadium.

Rathour expressed confidence that 226 runs should have been enough to win on that surface.

However, he pointed to a scoreless and expensive powerplay as the turning point. "We gave away lots of runs and didn't pick up any wickets early on," Rathour explained during the post-match press conference.

He noted that even in the later stages of the game, the bowlers struggled to stick to their strategies against a firing Delhi lineup. On the bright side, the coach praised the resilience of his middle order. After openers fell early for the first time this season, captain Riyan Parag stepped up with a brilliant 90, supported by Dhruv Jurel and a late-inning explosion from Donovan Ferreira. Rathour noted that this performance proves the team isn't reliant on just one or two stars. He also confirmed that Parag is "absolutely fine" after suffering minor cramps during the match.

Regarding 15-year-old sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi's early exit, Rathour remained supportive, stating that the youngster shouldn't be expected to score every time.

As Rajasthan looks to bounce back, the focus now shifts entirely to fixing their defensive flaws and ensuring their bowlers can protect the big totals their batters are producing.

## Jamieson penalized for fiery send-off to teenager

**JAIPUR**

Delhi Capitals fast bowler Kyle Jamieson has been officially warned and handed a demerit point following an aggressive celebration during the clash against the Rajasthan Royals. The IPL governing body confirmed the penalty after Jamieson breached the tournament's Code of Conduct during a high-stakes match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium.

The incident occurred early in the game after Jamieson dismissed 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. The young batter had started the over confidently, hitting the New Zealand pacer for a boundary on the very first ball. However, Jamieson roared back, bowling Sooryavanshi on the next delivery. In the heat of the moment, the veteran bowler celebrated by clapping aggressively near the teenager and giving him a "fiery" send-off as he left the pitch.

League officials determined that Jamieson's actions were provocative and fell under Article 2.5 of the Code of Conduct, which prohibits gestures that disparage or bait opponents.

# Norris grabs sprint pole in Miami thriller

Lando Norris secured the Miami sprint pole for McLaren, ending Mercedes' season-long qualifying dominance in a thrilling session

**MIAMI**

Lando Norris reminded the Formula One world why he is the reigning champion by snatching pole position in the Miami Grand Prix sprint race. In a high-stakes qualifying session at the Hard Rock Stadium, the McLaren star clocked a blistering time of 1:27.869, officially ending Mercedes' undefeated streak of pole positions for the 2026 season.

The victory was a major statement for McLaren, who arrived in Florida with a heavily upgraded car. "It's nice to feel some grip again," Norris remarked, crediting the team's hard work for the improved performance. While McLaren hoped for a front-row lockout, Mercedes' championship leader, Kimi Antonelli, spoiled the party by splitting the two orange cars to claim second place. Norris's teammate, Oscar Piastri, will start third, just ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

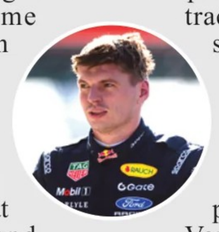
The session offered a rare glimpse of vulnerability from Mercedes, who had dominated the first three rounds of the year. George Russell, currently second in the standings, expressed surprise at the massive leaps made by McLaren and Ferrari, admitting he struggled with the intense Miami heat.

Further down the grid, four-time champion Max Verstappen could only manage fifth for Red Bull, while Aston Martin's nightmare season continued as they fell behind the newcomers, Cadillac. With eight points on the line for the sprint winner and overtaking expected to be frequent, the next race promises to be a flat-out battle under the revised engine rules designed for maximum speed.

## Verstappen gains confidence as Red Bull improves

**MIAMI**

Max Verstappen believes Red Bull is finally turning a corner after a difficult start to the 2026 season. Following a month-long break in the racing calendar, the four-time world champion expressed a renewed sense of trust in his car after qualifying fifth for Saturday's sprint race at the Miami Grand Prix.



The Dutch driver has been vocal about his frustrations with Formula One's new regulations, having failed to finish higher than sixth in the opening rounds of the year. However, a fresh set of upgrades brought to the Hard Rock Stadium seems to have provided the stability he was looking for. Verstappen noted that the car feels "more together" and predictable on the track. The numbers suggest a genuine comeback is in the works. While Red Bull trailed the leaders by over a second in previous races, Verstappen was able to cut that deficit significantly. His best lap was roughly half a second behind pole-sitter Lando Norris, a gap he says has been "halved" thanks to the team's latest engineering efforts.

## Racing legend Alex Zanardi passes away aged 59

**BOLOGNA**

The sporting world is in mourning following the death of Alex Zanardi, the former Formula One driver and Paralympic hero who became a global symbol of resilience. Zanardi, 59, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones, his family confirmed in a heartbreaking statement.

Zanardi's life was defined by his incredible ability to overcome tragedy. After making his F1 debut in 1991 and winning two championships in the American CART series, his life changed forever in 2001. A horrific racing crash in Germany resulted in the loss of both his legs. Most people would have given up, but Zanardi famously refused to let his injuries define him.

He transitioned to para-cycling and became an icon of the Paralympic movement, winning four gold medals across the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Games. Despite suffering further severe injuries in a 2020 road accident, he continued to fight for his recovery for years.

## New rules set to rank top boxers

**NEW DELHI**

The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has officially launched a new assessment framework for the Elite National Coaching Camp. This system will decide the national rankings and select the athletes who will represent India in major global tournaments like the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and the World Boxing Cup.

The evaluation is designed to be tough and thorough, using a 200-mark scoring system. It doesn't just focus on how well a boxer fights, it also tracks "non-technical" factors like attendance, health, weight management, and strength. To ensure fairness, the BFI will also look at recent performances from the 2026 COAS Cup to reward those who have shown consistent excellence in the ring.

The testing will happen in two phases starting next week. On May 6 and 7, boxers will undergo intense strength and conditioning tests. Following this, from May 11 to 15, they will compete in knockout-style sparring bouts to determine the final rankings for each weight category. Recent tweaks were made to the schedule to give athletes enough time to prepare following a slight delay in the camp's official approval.

**MIAMI TRACK LIMIT CHAOS**

# TRACK LIMIT ERROR SPARKS CHAOS IN MIAMI

**MIAMI**

A technical glitch during the Miami Grand Prix sprint qualifying left Williams driver Alex Albon and Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson in a bizarre sporting limbo. Although Albon originally appeared to advance into the second stage of qualifying, a delayed track-limits penalty eventually stripped him of his position, but only after the next round had already begun.

The confusion started when Albon went wide at Turn 6 during his fastest lap in the first session. Normally, F1's automated systems catch these errors instantly. However, officials explained that rubber marks left on the track by support races, like the Porsche Carrera Cup, confused the sensors. By the time race director Rui Marques manually confirmed the mistake and reported it to the stewards, the second session was already underway with Albon on the track.

The late decision was a crushing blow for Liam Lawson. The young driver sat in his car in the pits, hoping for a miracle that would allow him to take Albon's place. Unfortunately, because the session had progressed too far, Lawson remained eliminated in 17th place.

Following a precedent set at the 2022 Austrian Grand Prix, stewards eventually deleted all of Albon's times from both sessions.

This dropped the Williams driver to 19th on the starting grid for Saturday's sprint. While Williams argued they wasted resources competing in a session they shouldn't have been in, officials stood firm, proving that in the high-tech world of F1, even a simple white line can cause massive headaches.

## Big pickleball stars shine at Mumbai tournament

**MUMBAI**

The Andheri Sports Complex is buzzing with energy as the Maharashtra Pickleball Association (MPA) officially kicked off the Maharashtra Open 2026. This major three-day event, running from May 1 to 3, has quickly become the state's biggest stage for the fast-growing sport, attracting over 1,000 eager players.

The tournament was inaugurated by Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar alongside MPA President Rahool Kanal. The competition features top-tier talent, including Arjun and Aditya Singh, who recently brought home three gold medals from the US Open in Florida. Also hitting the court is Mihika Yadav, India's second-ranked female pro.

Early matches have already delivered high drama. In the singles finals, Aahana Punjabi took the women's crown with a powerful performance, while Atharva Khishti triumphed in the men's category. In a major twist, young star Arush Niture pulled off a massive upset by defeating champion Arjun Singh in the semi-finals before falling to Khishti in the finale.

"Our goal is to make Maharashtra the heart of pickleball in India," said Rahool Kanal, noting that the association gained 750 members in just its first month. Minister Shelar echoed this pride, promising government support for the athletes.

This championship isn't just about local glory, winners earn a spot to represent Maharashtra at the National Championship later this year. As the sport spreads into smaller towns and districts, this weekend's event marks a historic turning point for athletes and fans across the state.

## France makes history with first Thomas cup medal

**AARHUS**

The French badminton team achieved a monumental milestone, storming into the Thomas Cup semifinals for the first time in history. By sweeping world powerhouse Japan with a 3-0 victory, France has guaranteed itself a maiden medal in the prestigious tournament. They are now set for a high-stakes showdown against India in the final four.

France's historic night was built on the backs of their incredible singles players. Christo Popov started the momentum with a grueling win over Japan's Kodai Naraoka, showing immense endurance in a physical battle.

Alex Lanier followed with a composed performance to put France on the brink of victory. The historic moment was finally sealed when Toma Junior Popov held his nerve in a nail-biting finish to defeat Koki Watanabe.

"I wanted to cry, but I am too happy," Toma Junior said after the match. He noted that after beating Indonesia earlier in the week, this win serves as a loud warning to the badminton world that France is ready to fight for the top.

Standing in their way is India, the 2022 champions, who advanced with their own dominant 3-0 win over Chinese Taipei.

India's victory was powered by stars Lakshya Sen and the world-class doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. Meanwhile, hosts Denmark also progressed to the semis, ensuring a rare double-European presence in the final rounds. As the competition heats up, France's dream run remains the talk of the tournament.

### Lakshya Sen injury shocks India semifinal plans

India's badminton team faced a setback as Lakshya Sen was ruled out of the Thomas & Uber Cup semifinal against France due to an elbow injury. The issue came after a tough quarterfinal match. Officials said he needs rest to recover fully. Despite this, Sen had earlier helped India win against Chou Tien Chen in a thrilling game.

## Young tigresses end 21-year wait with Asian cup opener

**SUZHOU**

The Indian Women's U17 National Team is set to make a historic return to the continental stage as they face Australia in their opening match of the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup China 2026. Kick-off is scheduled for 17:00 IST and will be streamed live on the AFC Asian Cup YouTube channel.

This match marks India's first appearance in the tournament since 2005, ending a 21-year drought. It also completes a landmark "triple crown" for Indian women's football in 2026, with the Senior, U20, and U17 teams all qualifying for their respective Asian Cups in the same year.

**Preparation and Form**

Under the guidance of Italian head coach Pamela Conti, the "Young Tigresses" have undergone an intense four-month buildup:

Training: Three months of fitness and tactical drills primarily based in Bengaluru.

Recent Success: The squad arrives with momentum after winning the SAFF U19 Women's Championship in February and securing two victories against Myanmar in March.

Learning from Defeat: A recent three-game exposure tour in Russia helped the team adapt to the physical style of play they expect from Australia.

**Coach and Player Perspectives**

Coach Conti, who previously led Venezuela to a FIFA U20 World Cup, emphasized that the physical work is done and the focus is now on tactical sharpness. "We are ready... it's always a great feeling to represent a big country like India," she stated.

Abhista Basnett (15-year-old Defender): "We are playing against top teams not just in Asia, but in the world... we are going to give our all and fight."

Julan Nongmaithem (Midfielder): The only player in the squad with a senior cap, Julan noted: "Australia is a very tough team, but we also want to play tough football... the coach has told us to be brave and play without fear."

**Tournament Environment**

The tournament is being hosted at the world-class Suzhou Taihu Football Sports Centre, where all 12 participating teams are staying in a centralized "bubble." With perfect weather reported in Suzhou, the stage is set for the Young Tigresses to prove they belong among Asia's elite.

Having watched the Senior and U20 teams compete earlier this year, the U17 squad is determined to go one step further and aim for a knockout-stage qualification.

## *More than a trophy: Inside Punjab FC'S football factory*

**MOHALI**

Punjab FC's recent 3-0 victory over Zinc Football Academy to clinch the AIFF Elite Youth League title was more than just a win, it was a loud statement about the "system" taking over the state's sporting landscape. While the silverware was earned in Garhshankar, the real work is happening in a massive network of training centers that is quietly reshaping Punjab's footballing DNA.

Just last month, the club expanded its grassroots footprint to 32 centers, launching new hubs in towns like Moga, Patiala, and Batala. Each center takes in 75 young players, including a dedicated quota for girls, ensuring that professional coaching reaches beyond the big cities.

"The aim is to create the right environment for young players to learn and enjoy the game," said Bikramjit Singh, Deputy Lead of the Football Development Centre. This isn't just about volume, it's about a unified model where a child in a small village receives the same technical training as a player in the elite academy.

The results of this long-term investment are no longer theoretical. The Punjab FC academy, rated five stars by the AIFF, has already produced 15 Indian internationals. For decades, Punjab was synonymous with hockey and kabaddi and now football is moving from the margins to the center. Training grounds that were once empty are now buzzing daily with structured sessions.

"For us, the focus has always been on building a complete development ecosystem," says Technical Director Giuseppe Cristaldi. "The expansion and the success are outcomes of the same philosophy: consistent coaching and clear pathways."

- **SAFF Success:** In a recent India vs. Pakistan U-20 match, Punjab FC graduates scored every single goal in a 3-0 win, with Vishal Yadav and Omang Dodum finding the net.
- **Back-to-Back Titles:** The club's U-17 side has now secured consecutive national titles, proving that their success is a repeatable process rather than a one-off fluke.

By integrating education, nutrition, and psychological support into their training, Punjab FC is convincing families that football is a viable career path. As the club continues to dominate youth leagues, they aren't just winning trophies, they are building the future of Indian football.

## Indian golfer Yuvraj Sandhu shines in turkey

**BELEK**

Indian golfer Yuvraj Sandhu made a splash on the global stage, delivering a brilliant opening performance at the Turkish Airlines Open in Antalya. Playing in his debut season on the DP World Tour, Sandhu carded a 3-under 69, ending the first day of competition comfortably tucked inside the top 10.

Sandhu's round at the National Golf Club was a true test of character. After a rocky start on his back nine, where he suffered back-to-back bogeys, he found his rhythm under the Turkish sun. He showed great resilience by firing four birdies during his final nine holes to surge up the leaderboard. His steady play has placed him within striking distance of the leaders as the tournament moves into the weekend. Meanwhile, fellow Indian star Shubhankar Sharma also stayed in the hunt. Sharma finished the day with a solid 2-under 70, highlighted by an exciting eagle, leaving him tied for 22nd place. Currently, Sweden's Mikael Lindberg holds the top spot after an incredible bogey-free round of 66. Lindberg is chasing a top-three finish this week to qualify for the prestigious US PGA Championship.

The strong start by the Indian duo has captured the attention of fans back home. With Sandhu proving he can compete with the world's best and Sharma's veteran experience keeping him close, the leaderboard is set for a thrilling battle.

As the sun sets on Belek, all eyes remain on Sandhu to see if he can maintain this momentum.

# Srimathi Sindhoora Teaser Launch Celebrates Family Drama and Music

The teaser and songs of the upcoming Kannada film Srimathi Sindhoora were released at SRV Preview Theatre in a grand event attended by the cast and crew. The movie stars Vijaya Raghavendra and is directed by R. Anantaraju. Real estate businessman D.N. Nagireddy has produced the film under the R&R Enterprises banner and also written the story.

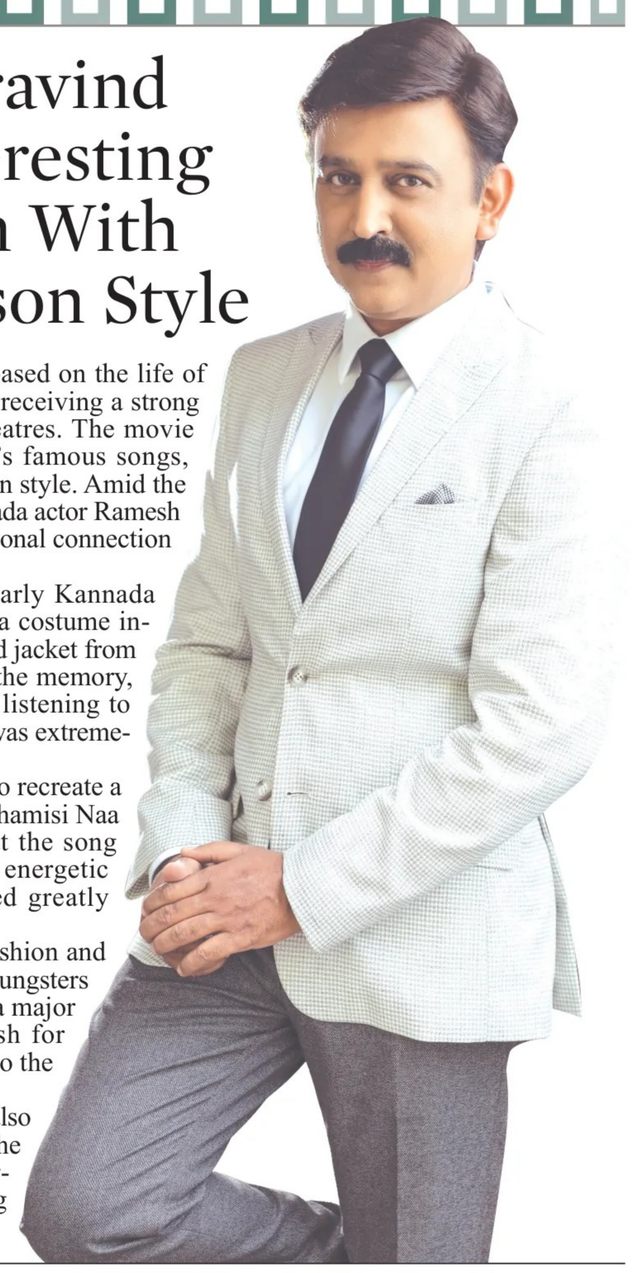
Actors Priya Hegde, Leo Manoj, Reshma V. Gowda, Ugram Ravi, Master Mourya and several technicians attended the function and shared their experiences. Producer Nagireddy said making a film had been his dream for twenty years. He added that he wanted to create work opportunities for cinema workers through the project.

Nagireddy said the film tells the story of a responsible young man who marries the woman he loves, after which many emotional twists change his life. He explained that the title represents the respect given to married women and described the movie as a complete family entertainer with strong values and devotion.

Vijaya Raghavendra praised the producers and said the film would connect with audiences of every generation. Director Anantaraju expressed confidence about the movie and said bodybuilder Maruti appears as Lord Hanuman. The film was shot in Mudigere, Sakaleshpura and Chikkamagaluru.

Music director Rajesh Ramanath has composed the songs after a long break, while cinematography is handled by P.K.H. Das. Lyrics for the movie are written by Kaviraj, K. Kalyan and director Anantaraju. Executive producer Gangadhar was appreciated by the team for supporting the production and helping complete the film smoothly successfully.

# Ramesh Aravind Reveals Interesting Connection With Michael Jackson Style



The biographical film Michael, based on the life of pop legend Michael Jackson, is receiving a strong response from audiences in theatres. The movie brings back memories of the singer's famous songs, dance performances and unique fashion style. Amid the excitement surrounding the film, Kannada actor Ramesh Aravind has shared an unexpected personal connection with the King of Pop.

Ramesh revealed that one of his early Kannada films, Sundara Swapnagalu, featured a costume inspired by Michael Jackson's famous red jacket from the hit song Thriller. Speaking about the memory, Ramesh said his generation grew up listening to Michael Jackson's music and Thriller was extremely popular during that period.

He explained that the team decided to recreate a similar red jacket look for the song Kshamisi Naa Helodella. Ramesh also recalled that the song gave him an opportunity to perform energetic dance movements, which he enjoyed greatly during filming.

The actor said Michael Jackson's fashion and dance style had a huge influence on youngsters at the time and the red jacket became a major trend. Fans have appreciated Ramesh for sharing this nostalgic memory linked to the global music icon.

Apart from this, Ramesh Aravind is also receiving praise for his appearance in the recently released film KD. He is currently busy shooting for his upcoming project Yours Sincerely Ram.

## Parimala And Co First Look Promises Thrills And Comedy

The first look poster of the upcoming Tamil film Parimala & Co has been officially released, creating excitement among cinema fans. Director Pandiraaj shared the poster on his X account and described the project as coming from my heart to your home. The film marks his 12th directorial venture.

Pandiraaj recently received appreciation for his earlier film Thalaivan Thalaivi starring Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen. With Parimala & Co, the director is returning with a story that combines family emotions, thriller elements and comedy moments.

According to industry sources, the film focuses on a family and the different personalities within it. The story reportedly begins in Chennai and later moves to Coimbatore and Palacode as the events unfold. The narrative explores the struggles and relationships shared among the family members.

Veteran actors Jayaram and Urvashi play the lead roles in the movie. Actors Santhosh Sobhan and Sanchana Krishnamoorthy also appear in important characters.

Comedian Sandy and actress Ananthika Sanilkumar are paired together in the film, while popular comedian Yogi Babu plays an extended role throughout the story. Filmmaker Mysskin will also appear as a police officer.

The film is jointly produced by Lyca Productions, Tamilkumaran Productions and Pasanga Productions. Shooting has been completed and post-production work is progressing quickly before its theatrical release soon.

## Shreya Ghoshal Says Studio And Concerts Shape Musical Journey

Popular playback singer Shreya Ghoshal has said that studio recordings and live concerts are equally important in helping an artist grow. She described them as two completely different experiences that together shape a singer's musical journey and performance style.

Speaking during her international travel schedule, Shreya shared her thoughts about her recently released live album from the All Hearts Tour, launched under Sony Music India. She explained that the album captures the excitement, emotion and connection created during live performances, which she feels cannot be recreated inside a recording studio.

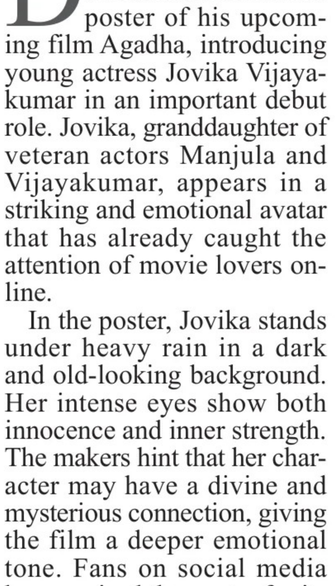
According to Shreya, studio sessions feel like a comfort zone where singers work closely with composers, lyricists, musicians and sound engineers to create songs from the beginning. She said the process of recording music in a studio carries a very personal and meaningful feeling for every artist.

At the same time, the singer pointed out that live concerts require a completely different level of preparation and energy. She explained that every audience and venue creates a unique atmosphere, making each performance different from the previous one. She added that singers must quickly connect with crowds and adapt to changing situations during concerts.

Shreya said that throughout her long career, she has learned how to balance both studio work and stage performances.

# Rajinikanth Temple Celebrates Labour Day With Baashha Theme Tribute

A temple dedicated to superstar Rajinikanth celebrated International Workers' Day with special prayers and rituals honouring workers and labourers. The event took place at the Arulmigu Sri Rajini Temple, where many devotees gathered to mark the occasion and pray for the well-being of working people across the country.



The temple was founded by a devoted fan named Karthik and contains two black stone idols of Rajinikanth. Daily poojas are regularly conducted at the temple every morning and evening. During this year's Labour Day celebrations, the temple created a special setup inspired by Rajinikanth's famous role as an auto driver in the film Baashha.

A large cutout of Rajinikanth from the movie was displayed beside an auto-rickshaw to represent the hard work and dignity of labourers. Temple authorities also arranged work tools creatively to spread Labour Day messages.

Special abhishekam rituals were performed using sixteen sacred items, including milk, curd, rose water and tender coconut. Devotees later took part in deeparadhana and prayed for workers' health, prosperity and success. Sweets were also distributed to labourers who attended the event.

Speaking during the celebration, Karthik said the programme was inspired by Rajinikanth's own journey from a daily wage worker and bus conductor to becoming a globally admired film star. He added that several of the actor's films, including Mannan, Uzhaippali and Baashha, highlight the struggles of ordinary working people.

# Kajal Aggarwal Reportedly Replaces Nayanthara In NBK111 Film

Veteran Telugu actor Nandamuri Balakrishna and director Gopichand Malineni are currently working on their upcoming project tentatively titled NBK111. Latest reports now suggest that actress Kajal Aggarwal has replaced Nayanthara as the female lead in the film.

According to media reports, Nayanthara is no longer part of the project and Kajal Aggarwal has officially joined the cast. Reports also claim that Kajal has already started shooting for the movie. The makers reportedly believe that her pairing with Balakrishna will appear fresh and appealing to audiences. Sources say there were several reasons behind the change in casting. Nayanthara had reportedly demanded a very high remuneration close to ten crore rupees. The team also faced scheduling difficulties in matching her shooting dates. Another reported issue was her limited participation in movie promotions, which created concerns for the production team.

Earlier, the makers had officially announced Nayanthara's involvement in the film through a birthday special social media post. The message described her as a powerful presence entering the world of NBK111 and wished her on her birthday.

Meanwhile, reports suggest Kajal Aggarwal agreed to adjust her shooting dates according to the production schedule. Her remuneration reportedly matched the film's budget plans, and she is also expected to support promotional activities for the movie.

NBK111 is said to be a commercial action entertainer packed with mass appeal elements. The team has already completed an important shooting schedule featuring action scenes. Discussions are currently underway regarding the film's final title and another possible heroine. The makers are reportedly planning to release the movie before the end of this year.

# AJITH KUMAR Racing Documentary Gladiators First Glimpse Creates Excitement

Actor Ajith Kumar celebrated his 55th birthday by announcing his upcoming racing documentary Gladiators. The makers released the first glimpse of the project on Friday, giving fans a special surprise and creating excitement among motorsport and cinema lovers.

The documentary focuses on Ajith Kumar's motorsport journey and his passion for racing. The announcement was made through a video shared by Ajith Kumar Sports Services LLC on social media. The team described the project as a story about chasing impossible challenges through determination and courage.

The 50-second teaser begins with a race car waiting on the track as Ajith Kumar walks towards it wearing full racing gear and carrying a helmet. The video then shifts to high-speed racing visuals before revealing the title Gladiators along with the tagline In Pursuit of Challenges. The glimpse also shows Ajith standing beside his racing car in professional gear.

The documentary is directed by filmmaker A. L. Vijay, who has captured Ajith's racing experiences for the project. Music for the documentary has been composed by G. V. Prakash Kumar. Sharing the teaser online, the composer expressed excitement about creating the racing-themed music for the film.

Although the makers have not announced an official release date, they confirmed that Gladiators will release in theatres. Ajith Kumar, who appeared in the 2025 films Vidaamuyarchi and Good Bad Ugly, has been actively focusing on motorsport since 2024 through his racing team.

# Jovika Vijaykumar Impresses Audiences With Powerful Agadha First Look

Director MS Raju has revealed the first look poster of his upcoming film Agadha, introducing young actress Jovika Vijayakumar in an important debut role. Jovika, granddaughter of veteran actors Manjula and Vijayakumar, appears in a striking and emotional avatar that has already caught the attention of movie lovers online.

In the poster, Jovika stands under heavy rain in a dark and old-looking background. Her intense eyes show both innocence and inner strength. The makers hint that her character may have a divine and mysterious connection, giving the film a deeper emotional tone. Fans on social media have praised the poster for its unique style and strong visual appeal.

The movie also carries a special family connection. Many years ago, MS Raju introduced actress Vanitha Vijayakumar to cinema through the film Devi. Now, he is presenting Vanitha's daughter Jovika to audiences, creating a rare moment linking two generations through the same filmmaker.

Earlier posters from Agadha also created curiosity. One featured Mahadevi with divine energy, while another showed actor Shravan Reddy as Simha carrying a torch in darkness. Actress Ulka Gupta's character poster also received attention from viewers.

According to reports, the film will release in Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi. Around 45 minutes will include visual effects scenes. The makers believe Agadha will offer audiences a fresh cinematic experience filled with mystery, emotions, spiritual themes, and visually rich storytelling soon.

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